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- (54) Title: SPECIFIC THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS OBTAINED BY INTERFERENCE WITH REDISTRIBUTION AND/OR **TARGETTING**
- (57) Abstract

The application describes a novel mechanism of action, that is modulation of the specific effectiveness of I-kappa-kinases or cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases (PDEs) which have the ability to cleave cGMP or cAMP. The preferred mode of action is dislocation, disruption of targeting or interference with redistribution of specific isoforms or splice variants of PDE4, PDE5, or I-kappa-kinases from their anchoring sites within cells, thereby modulating their specific effectiveness, not their enzymatic capacity. The chemical entities may be useful in preventing or treating in an animal, preferably a human, in need thereof an adverse condition which may be reduced or abolished by modulating the specific effectiveness of PDE4, PDE5, or I-kappa-kinases.

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SPECIFIC THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS OBTAINED BY INTERFERENCE WITH REDISTRIBUTION AND/OR TARGETTING.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This application describes a novel mechanism of action of chemical entities in order to prevent or treat adverse conditions which may be reduced or abolished by modulating the effectiveness of I-kappaB kinase (IKK) or cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases (PDE:s) by modulation of their targeting or localisation in the cell. The preferred mode of action being sought is dislocation or interference with the targeting of specific isoforms of IKK or PDE:s and interference with their anchoring sites within cells, thereby reducing their specific effectiveness, not directly their enzymatic capacity.

In its broadest aspect, the present application relates to a novel method for preventing or treating, in an animal in need thereof, an adverse condition which may be reduced or abolished by modulating the activity of one or more IKKs or PDE:s having the ability to cleave cAMP or cGMP. The method comprises modulation of the specific effectiveness of IKKs or PDE:s by modulating their spatial distribution within cells of the animal. The IKK is chosen from the group consisting of IKKα, IKKβ, IKKγ and NIK. In one embodiment IKKβ is the preferred isoform. The PDE:s are chosen from the group consisting of PDE1, PDE2, PDE3, PDE4, PDE 5, PDE6, PDE7, PDE8, PDE9 and PDE10. More specifically, the method relates to PDE4 and isoforms thereof, such as PDE4D, and splice variants of PDE4D, such as PDE4D1, PDE4D2, PDE4D3, PDE4D4 and PDE4D5. The animal with the adverse condition may be a mammal and preferably a human.

In one embodiment of the invention modulation of the specific effectiveness of the PDE is a dislocation of the PDE from a native location within the cell.

In another embodiment of the invention modulation of the specific effectiveness of the PDE involves a disruption of its targeting to a native location within the cell.

In another embodiment of the invention modulation of the specific effectiveness of the PDE involves interference with the redistribution of the PDE, the redistribution being associated with an increase or a decrease of the specific effectiveness of the PDE.

The modulation of the specific effectiveness of the PDE may involve both an upregulation or a down-regulation of the effectiveness of the PDE to perform its function within the cell.

The present invention provides compositions and methods for modifying the activation of NF-kappaB by mis-targeting and/or modulation of the redistribution of specific IKKs.

In one embodiment we specifically modulate the targeting of IKKβ. We have developed two molecular probes PS473 and PS474 that upon expression in a relevant cell system will dislocate endogenous IKKβ from its anchoring site. The mis-targeting has, as shown in example 1, significant functional consequences that can be related to a diminished ability of cytokines and other stimuli to activate NFkappaB. We thus show that IL-1 induced translocation of NFkappaB from cytoplasm to the nucleus is effectively inhibited, and furthermore as a consequence thereof we found that NFkappaB-induced transcriptional activation was inhibited.

NFkappaB has been shown to rescue transformed cells from undergoing apoptosis when exposed to pro-inflammatory cytokines like TNFα (Baichwal, V.R. & Baeuerle, P.A. (1997) Curr Biol 7, R94-6). To substantiate that mis-targeting of IKKβ is an effective way of blocking the functional effect of IKKβ, we analysed whether PS473 was able to influence TNFα-induced apoptosis. As seen in example 1 the probe (PS473) was found to hypersensitise cells to apoptotic stimuli.

20 In another embodiment the present invention provides agents that modulate the targeting and/or redistribution of IKKs. Such agents include polypeptides that comprise a putative leucine zipper region of IKKβ. Included are DNA molecules and expression vectors that encode for the described peptides, furthermore host cells are provided that express said peptides in a stable or transient expression system.

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In another embodiment the invention provides a method for finding compounds that modulate targeting and redistribution of IKKβ and of derivatives thereof. The method renders itself to screening for compounds that modulate the functional activity of I-kappaB kinase β through modulation of one or more of multiple targeting sites of IKKβ (or other IKKs) and which thereby cause either a partial or a complete inhibition of the NF-kappaB activation. The method will allow for identification of compounds that modulate said targeting or redistribution in specific cell types.

The presented novel mechanism of action will be useful in the treatment of the following diseases/conditions: chronic inflammation, asthma and chronic bronchial hyperreactivity

of non-asthma etiology, rheumatoid arthritis and pelvospondylitis, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, diabetes mellitus type I, systemic lupus erythematosus, myasthenia gravis, Hashimoto's thyreoiditis, Graves' disease and immune thrombocytopenic purpura, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and septic shock as well as depression.

Background

Chronic inflammation is the result of unbalanced and continued production of 10 inflammatory cytokines. Cytokines are produced in cascades, the pro-inflammatory TNF α and IL-1 β often responsible for initiating a process, which leads to a more general production of further cytokines. This cascade of gene expression is largely under the control of NF-kappaB, a ubiquitous transcription factor that, by regulating the expression of multiple inflammatory and immune genes, plays a critical role in host defence and in 15 chronic inflammatory diseases (Sen and Baltimore, 1986; Mukaida et al., 1990; Beg et al., 1993; Cogswell et al., 1993). NF-kappaB is activated not only by cytokines, but also by reactive oxygen species (ROS), viruses, and a range of other generally noxious and pathogenic stimuli (Blackwell et al., 1997; Schulzwe-Osthoff et al., 1997). Activation of NF-kappaB via ROS has been implicated in neurodegenerative disorders such as 20 Parkinson's and Alzheimer's (Lesoualc'h et al., 1998; O'Neill et al., 1997) and also in inflammatory bowel disease (Jourd'heuil et al., 1997). Tissue inflammatory reponse to xrays is mediated directly by NF-kappaB (Hallahan et al., 1995). Activation of NF-kappaB has been implicated in the production of atherosclerotic lesions of smooth muscle cells (Bourcier et al., 1997) and in cardiac inflammatory disorders (Hattori et al., 1997). NF-25 kappaB/Rel transcription factors are also known to play a role in the pathogenesis of certain tumours, especially those of haematopoetic origin (Neumann et al., 1997), and constitutive (autocrine) activation of NF-kappaB is known to promote a resistance to apoptotic stimuli (Giri et al., 1998). Inhibitors of NF-kappaB should increase the cytotoxic efficacy of anticancer chemotherapies (Bours et al., 1998). 30 The inflammatory pathways are notoriously complex, yet the feasibility of reducing or

The NF-kappaB/Rel group of transcription activators and their co-evolved regulatory proteins, the inhibitors of kappa B (I-kappaBs), play important roles in many cellular

eliminating inflammatory responses through modulation of NF-kappaB activity has already been demonstrated in a number of different cells (Makarov *et al.*, 1997).

signalling processes in vertebrates, which include controlling communication between cells, embryo development, maintenance of cell type specific expression of genes as well as co-ordinating the inflammatory response to stressors and viral infection (Wulczyn et al., 1996). The key proteins involved in this control system divide into distinct groups: 5 a) Those that bind DNA. These belong to the Rel family of transcription factors (Ghosh et al., 1990) and include p50, p65, p52/49, p75/Rel and RelB. Only dimers bind DNA, but these can be homodimers or heterodimers. p65/p50 heterodimer is the most abundant, and plays a more elaborate role than other factors in regulating gene expression (Baldwin, 1996). b) Those that interact with the DNA-binding subunits in cytoplasm, 10 which include the inhibitory I-kappaB α and I-kappaB β molecules (Bauerle and Baltimore, 1988), and the precursor molecule p105 (Naumann et al., 1993). c) Those transcriptional coactivators which interact with the DNA-binding subunits in the nucleus, such as Bcl3 (Nolan et al., 1993; Watanabe et al., 1997) and Cbp/p300 (Zhong et al.,, 1998). d) Kinases which activate proteasomal destruction of I-kappaB α and β subunits - the I-15 kappaB kinases (Beg et al., 1993). e) Kinases which directly phosphorylate the DNAbinding subunits in cytoplasm and nucleus to modulate their activity, such as PKA (Zhong et al., 1998), casein kinase II (Bird et al., 1997) and others (Hayashi et al., 1993; Schulze-Osthoff et al., 1997).

- 20 Inactive p65/p50 NF-kappaB dimers are held in the cytoplasm coupled to inhibitory I-kappaB molecules (α and β isoforms) via the p65 subunits. Activated I-kappaB kinases (IKK) phosphorylate the inhibitors, targeting them for ubiquitination and subsequent proteasomal digestion (Beg *et al.*, 1993). The released subunits translocate to the nucleus and there activate transcription.
- 25 The I-kappa kinases (IKK-α, IKK-β and IKK-γ) have been shown to be part of a large multi-component complex (Chen et al. 1996; Rothwarf et al., 1998). It is likely to assume that the assembly and disassembly of the IKK complex is controlled by a scaffold protein termed IKK-complex-associated protein, IKAP (Cohen et al. 1998). It is expected that a tight assembly of the complex is necessary for the IKKs to be activated by the NF-kappa-B-inducing kinase (NIK) and thereby induce phosphorylation of the I-kappaB subunits. Interestingly the affinity of IKK-β for IKAP diminishes upon phosphorylation of IKK-β by

Glucocorticoids (GC) are powerfully efficient modulators of inflammation, but suffer from the potential hazards of suppressing necessary protective responses to infection and

NIK.

decreasing some essential healing processes. They modulate cytokine expression by a combination of genomic mechanisms. The activated GC-receptor complex can (i) bind to and inactivate AP-1 or NF-kappaB, (ii) upregulate I-kappaB production via GC response elements (iii) reduce the half-life of cytokine mRNAs (Brattsand & Linden 1996). But steroid treatment broadly attenuates all cytokine production from all lymphocytes, so not only do levels of the inflammatory cytokines fall, but also that of the anti-inflammatory IL-10. Specific modulation of Th1-type pathways would be an initial goal of this project. It is also known that some fibroblast cell NF-kappaB-mediated responses are likely governors of inflammatory progression, so inhibition of such responses could have detrimental effects (Smith et al., 1997). Therapies, which maintain appropriate feedback systems, but modulate inappropriate cytokine production represent an unmet medical need.

An attractive therapeutic intervention to be used in the treatment of chronic inflammatory conditions is inhibition of the I-kappaB degradation. Blocking the ubiquitin proteasome pathway (PharmaProjects, Accession no. 023654 and 027675), can directly inhibit this degradation. Another mechanism that is being pursued is inhibition of the enzymatic activity of either of the IKKs or NIK (public statement from Signal Pharmaceuticals).

- Very many extracellular signals are transduced via intracellular systems employing the cyclic nucleotides cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) and cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) as intermediaries, or second messengers. The processes mediated by cAMP and cGMP include control of smooth muscle tone, learning, vision, cellular differentiation, control of pro-inflammatory mediator production and action,
 apoptosis, lipogenesis, glycogenolysis and gluconeogenesis, circadian rhythms, cardiac function, and mood control through noradrenergic potentiation.
 Cyclic nucleotides are generated by adenylate and guanylate cyclases (ACs and GCs, respectively) from ATP and GTP, signal to cAMP- and cGMP-dependent effector proteins such as protein kinases (cAKs and cGKs, respectively) and certain ion
 channels. cAMP and cGMP are removed by phosphodiesterases (PDE:s). The required specificity of signals generated by these systems arises from diversity of type, tissue-
- specificity of signals generated by these systems arises from diversity of type, tissue-specific expression and intracellular placement of the enzymes involved. For instance there are nine isoforms of ACs known plus additional splice variants, soluble and membrane located forms of GCs, multiple isoforms of the cAK and cGK kinases, and very many isoforms of PDE:s of which over 30 have been identified (Perry and Higgs, 1998; Houslay and Milligan, 1997; Beavo, 1995). Additional specificity arises from

targeting particular signalling enzymes to restricted locations within cells; this is the function of scaffold and anchoring proteins, such as the AKAP family, and not only may they place enzymes close to their substrates, but they may also serve to recruit multiple enzymes into functional signalling units (Pawson and Scott, 1997).

- Inactivation of cAMP/cGMP occurs by hydrolysis of the 3'-ester bond, catalysed by the PDEs. The PDE:s are key components of the cyclic nucleotide signalling systems, allowing local concentration differences of the cyclic nucleotide messengers to be established, between adjacent tissues, between adjacent cells, even within a single cell between different volumes of cytoplasm. The ability to generate such heterogeneity in the distribution of concentrations of a commonly shared signalling molecule, such as cAMP is at the heart of directed signalling processes. To be of therapeutic value, cyclic
 - the distribution of concentrations of a commonly shared signalling molecule, such as cAMP, is at the heart of directed signalling processes. To be of therapeutic value, cyclic nucleotide control has to be achieved with defined cellular selectivity (Perry and Higgs, 1998). It is the therapeutic opportunities offered by certain of the PDE:s that concerns this application.
- Ten families of PDE:s have been identified, designated simply PDE1 to PDE10. Within each family there are two or more related but distinct gene products (A, B, C, etc.) and for each of these alternative mRNA processing gives rise to multiple splice variants, identified by an additional arabic numeral in accordance with the most recent nomenclature recommendation (Molecular Pharmacology 46:399-405, 1994). All PDE
- gene products identified so far have two functional domains per molecule, one catalytic, and one regulatory. The catalytic domain lies towards the carboxylic acid terminus of each PDE protein and has the greatest homology between the PDE families, being >75% homologous at the amino acid level (Perry and Higgs, 1998). Nevertheless, each of the more than 30 PDE:s known have individually distinct substrate specificities, kinetic
- characteristics, regulatory properties and cellular and subcellular distributions (Houslay and Milligan, 1997).
 - PDE:s 4, 7 and 8 are highly specific for cAMP. PDE:s 5, 6, 9 and 10 are selective for cGMP. PDE3s bind cAMP and cGMP with similar affinity, but hydrolyse cAMP most efficiently, cGMP rather poorly. PDE3s are therefore negatively regulated in their cAMP
- 30 hydrolysing ability by cGMP. PDE:s 1 and 2 hydrolyse both cAMP and cGMP, but with PDE1 the relative efficiencies vary with isoenzyme subtype (Perry and Higgs, 1998). The amino terminal ends of PDE:s consist of the regulatory domains, which are very different both between families and between variants within families. This region contains variously: a binding domain for Ca²⁺-calmodulin (CaM) in PDE1; non-catalytic cGMP-
- 35 binding sites in PDE:s 2, 5 and 6; a binding domain for the signalling G-protein

transducin in PDE6. The amino terminal region also contains protein- and membrane-targeting sequences in several PDE3:s and PDE4:s, as well as protein kinase phosphorylation sites in PDE:s 1, 3, 4 and 5. These phosphorylation sites are likely to be important in regulation of catalytic activity and/or subcellular location (Perry and Higgs, 1998).

Amongst the cAMP degrading phosphodiesterases, we focus here on the largest and most diverse family known, the PDE4:s. PDE4 enzymes share a common structure, as deduced from their amino acid sequences (Beavo and Reifsnyder, 1990; Bolger et al., 10 1993, Houslay, Sullivan and Bolger, 1998). Members of each gene family (PDE4A, PDE4B, PDE4C, PDE4D) share common C-terminal regions, different for each family, and catalytic domains that for all PDE4 isoforms are very similar (84% homology over about 360 amino acids across all PDE4:s; Houslay, Sullivan and Bolger, 1998). From Nterminus to catalytic region, the sequence in "long form" PDE4s can be divided into 5 15 regions, three of which are isoform-specific (N-terminal region, linker regions 1 and 2, or LR1 and LR2) and two, more conserved regions, that are broadly similar between all isoforms, the upstream conserved regions 1 and 2 (UCR1 and UCR2). "Short form" PDE4:s, e.g. PDE4A1, PDE4B2, PDE4D1, PDE4D2, lack UCR1 and LR1 plus differing amounts of the N-terminal region of UCR2. Throughout all regions are potential 20 phosphorylation sites for a variety of kinases, including PKA (e.g. Ser 54 in human PDE4D3), mitogen activated protein kinases (e.g. Ser 487 of human PDE4B2), casein kinase II (e.g. Ser 489 of PDE4B2) and calcium-diacylglycerol dependent protein kinases (Houslay, Sullivan and Bolger, 1998). Phosphorylations at some of these sites have been shown to activate the PDEs (e.g. Ser 54), others serve to inhibit. There is also 25 evidence that some phosphorylations serve to prime the enzymes ready for subsequent activation by further phosphorylation at a different site or sites (Houslay, Sullivan and Bolger, 1998). Other auto-regulatory sites may be found in the N-terminal sequence of certain PDE4:s (Bolger et al., 1996, McPhee et al., 1995). The identification of rolipram (Schering AG, Berlin, Germany) as an effective inhibitor of 30 PDE4:s (Wachtel, 1982, Nemoz et al., 1985) gave an important tool by which to determine the role of PDE4:s in different cell types. Originally developed as a neurotropic agent, rolipram indicated the therapeutic potential of PDE4 inhibition in control of depressive disorders. Analysis of the pharmacological properties of rolipram, and over 800 publications covering these properties have appeared over the period 1993 to 1998 35 alone, now indicates that specific PDE4 inhibition may be useful over a very wide range

of disease areas. These include: asthma, atopic dermatitis, depression, reperfusion

injury, septic shock, toxic shock, autoimmune diabetes, AIDS, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebral ischemia, psoriasis, allograft rejection, restenosis, ulcerative colitis, cachexia, cerebral malaria, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, osteoarthritis, rheutmatoid arthritis, autoimmune encephalomyelitis (Houslay, Sullivan and Bolger, 1998).

- In the area of asthma, PDE4 inhibition helps to increase cAMP in bronchial smooth muscle, thereby producing a modest bronchodilatory effect, of use in the alleviation of asthmatic symptoms. But perhaps most importantly, inhibition of PDE4:s is now a recognised method by which to suppress immune and inflammatory cell responses (Hughes *et al.*, 1997; Torphy, 1998; Teixeira *et al.*, 1997).
- 10 PDE4:s play major roles in modulating the activity of virtually every cell type involved in the inflammatory process. Immune and inflammatory conditions occur when recruitment of leukocytes from the blood compartment into tissues is either uncontrolled, inappropriate, prolonged or directed against self. In asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis, infiltration of tissues with inflammatory cells is prolonged and intense,
- leading ultimately to severe (and self-perpetuating) damage and loss of function. Acute disregulation of the immune system occurs in such conditions as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) where an overwhelming and generalised inflammatory response can frequently lead to death. There is also substantial evidence which suggests that inflammation may play a part in defining the extent of injury resulting from
- 20 reperfusion following ischaemia, at least in brain and lung (Entman and Smith, 1994). Chronic inflammatory conditions such as asthma are currently treatable with steroids, but long term treatment brings unavoidable side-effects including immunosuppression, metabolic disturbance and hypertension (Teixeira et al., 1997). Symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis can be alleviated by non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDS), but again their
- 25 side effects are of great concern. Acute conditions such as ARDS have no current treatment as such, only supportive care. Effective anti-inflammatories able to control disregulated reponses, but without the side effects associated with NSAIDS and steroids, have not yet been found.
- Within the context of asthma, elevation of intracellular cAMP by PDE inhibition has been associated with inhibition of the function of various types of cells involved in the inflammatory response, including lymphocytes, monocytes, macrophages, neutrophils, eosinophils, mast cells, basophils, endothelial cells and lung epithelial cells (Nicholson and Shahid, 1994); PDE4:s appear to play the dominant role in neutrophils, basophils, eosinophils and mast cells, PDE3s being dominant in monocytes/macrophages and lymphocytes. Inhibitors of PDE3s and PDE4:s often interact synergistically in control of

inflammatory response in asthma models (Teixeira *et al.*, 1997). Other PDE:s may be important in inflammatory cells, but their involvement has yet to be clarified or demonstrated.

Increased cAMP modulates myosin light chain kinase (MLCK) activity causing relaxation,

- 5 and this is the primary effect in bronchial smooth muscle. Useful compounds will relax bronchial smooth muscle slowly and maintain relaxation for sustained periods, but also help reduce inflammatory immune responses to allergens. Although a combined inhibition of PDE3 and PDE4 isozymes seems to relax bronchial smooth muscle most effectively (Raeburn & Advenier, 1995) in humans, the possibility of cardiovascular
- 10 complications is increased by the use of PDE3 inhibitors, and in fact PDE4 inhibitors such as rolipram, alone or in combination with agonists of the β2 adrenoceptors such as salbutamol, are effective bronchorelaxants.

Possible mechanisms (Teixeira *et al.*, 1997) involved in the anti-inflammatory benefits of PDE4 inhibition *in vivo* include:

- 15 Inhibition of the production and release of inflammatory mediators/cytokines.
 - Inhibition of leukocyte migration.
 - Induction of cytokines with suppressive activity.
 - Inhibition of leukocyte activation (degranulation, respiratory burst).
 - Inhibition of the expression/upregulation of cell adhesion molecules.
- 20 Induction of apoptosis amongst inflammatory cells.
 - Also, stimulation of endogenous steroid and catecholamine release (Pettipher *et al.*, 1996).

Perhaps the most important consequence in vivo of selective PDE4 inhibition may be to inhibit chemokine production, especially those that are chemoattractants of leukocytes

- 25 (Teixeira *et al.*, 1997). Inhibitors of PDE4 are effective suppressers of cytokine production *in vitro* and reduce serum levels of tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α) in animal models of septic shock (Sekut *et al.*, 1995; Pettipher *et al.*, 1996; Prabhakar *et al.*, 1994). Inhibition of TNF-α production may be central to the beneficial effects of PDE4 inhibition in treatment of inflammatory conditions, but inhibition of the release of
- 30 chemoattractants such as the α-chemokine interleukin-8 and the lipid leukotriene (LT)B₄ may also be important for reducing leukocyte recruitment to sites of inflammation (Turner *et al.*, 1994; Griswold *et al.*, 1993).
- It is also known however that there are protective effects of PDE4 inhibition which are quite separate from inhibition of release and action of TNF-α and other pro-inflammatory mediators. At higher concentrations than are necessary to inhibit TNF-α release,

rolipram appears to have a direct effect on eosinophils (Teixeira et al., 1994) and eosinophilia. PDE4 inhibition also stimulates macrophages to produce and release the antiinflammatory cytokine interleukin 10 (IL-10) when challenged with lipopolysaccharide (LPS) in vitro (Kambayashi et al., 1995; Jilg et al., 1996), and this same effect may be 5 involved in the protective action of methylxanthines, which are general PDE inhibitors, in a murine model of septic shock (Jilg et al., 1996). Inhibition of neutrophil activation in vivo may also be how PDE4 inhibition protects against acute lung injury induced by LPS followed by zymosan in a murine model (Miotla et al., 1995), and in animal models of asthma, it is likely that PDE4 inhibition suppresses 10 allergic inflammation by inhibition of eosinophil activation together with inhibition of mast cell de-granulation (Hughes et al., 1996). PDE4 inhibition has also been shown to affect the in vitro expression and presentation of cell adhesion molecules such as E-selectin by endothelial cells of the microvasculature (Blease et al., 1998; Morandini et al., 1996) and increased cAMP also prevents mediator-15 induced upregulation of β2 integrins on the surface of eosinophils and neutrophils (Teixeira et al., 1996). Inhibition of the cell adhesion components responsible for recruitment of leukocytes and for initiation of tissue infiltration by the inflammatory cells is an important aspect of therapeutic control for inflammatory conditions. cAMP-elevating agents also enhance apoptotic clearance of various leukocytes in vitro 20 (Hallsworth et al., 1996), and this too may be useful effect in the control of inflammation through PDE4 inhibition.

The major cGMP-degrading PDEs are types 1,2,5, 6, 9 and 10 but here we focus on PDE5, since this is the principal cGMP-specific PDE found in airway and vascular smooth muscle, and it is one of the better documented families ofcGMP-specific PDEs. Little is known yet concerning the role of the newly discovered PDE9 and PDE10 isoforms (Soderling *et al.*, 1998; Fisher *et al.*, 1998; Soderling *et al.*, 1999; Fujishige *et al.*, 1999), and the situation is similar for PDE2s, since good inhibitors are as yet unknown for these (Perry and Higgs, 1998). PDE5 is activated by cAK and (10-fold faster) by cGK (Thomas *et al.*, 1990). Phosphorylation of PDE5 is enhanced in the presence of cGMP, and apparently increases the enzyme's V_{max} by 10-fold (Burns *et al.*, 1992). Coupled with PDE3, these interactions form a feedback system to limit cGMP signaling: increased cGMP will increase cAMP through inhibition of PDE3, high cAMP will activate cAK which, in the presence of elevated cGMP will activate PDE5 and therefore stimulate cGMP breakdown. cAMP levels return to baseline as cGMP falls, by re-activation of PDE3. Recent evidence (Pyne *et al.*, 1996; Lochhead *et al.*, 1997)

suggests that PDE5 may have additional protein components associated with it analagous to the gamma subunits of PDE6. The PDE6y subunits serve to link activation of the G-protein transducin to activation of the PDE. They are subsequently involved in turning off the signal by helping to activate the transducin GTPase. In the case of PDE5, 5 these associated proteins (14 to 18 kDa) may serve to block activation of the enzyme by cGK and cAK, and the blocking ability of these polypeptides appears to be controlled by a G-protein regulated kinase (Pyne et al., 1996). cGMP-degrading PDEs work in concert with the action of guanylate cyclases, just as cAMP PDE:s and adenylate cyclases together control cAMP levels in cells. Two groups 10 of GCs are known in mammals, the soluble ones and those that are membrane located. GCs from both groups are central to systemic control of blood pressure. Soluble GCs are expressed in almost all cell types of the cardiovascular system including cardiomyocytes, vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMCs), endothelial cells and platelets (Drewett and Garbers, 1994). Soluble GCs contain a prosthetic heme group which binds NO (and CO) 15 and leads to activation of the enzyme: the vasoactive properties of NO are mediated through the cGMP pathway in this way. The membrane located GCs act as receptors for various ligands (among them, natriuretic peptides and guanylin). cGMP-mediated functions of the natriuretic hormone receptors include vascular smooth muscle relaxation

20 cGMP interacts with a number of different effector proteins:

as well as regulation of blood volume (Benner et al., 1990).

- a) with certain ion channels e.g. in photoreceptors and olfactory cells, also in heart and kidney (Lincoln & Cornwell, 1993; Biel et al., 1994; Light et al., 1990);
- b) with cGMP-dependent protein kinases (cGKI and cGKII), of which "cytosolic" cGKI predominates in the cardiovascular system and has at least 2 splice variants, α and
- β. cGKIα has 10-fold higher affinity for cGMP than the β variant. Both cGKI variants are found in vascular smooth muscle (Keilbach *et al.*, 1992, Hofmann *et al.*, 1992);
 - c) at high concentrations, with cAMP-dependent protein kinases (cAK), which being similar to the cGKs have a certain affinity for cGMP, just as the reverse is also true (Vaandrager & de Jonge, 1996). The functional significance of this potential cross-talk
- 30 between pathways is not yet fully known, but may be connected with the anti-proliferative effects of cGMP (Lincoln *et al.*, 1994);
- d) with cGMP-modulated PDEs: cGMP binds to a non-catalytic site of PDE2 and lowers its K_m for cAMP, lowering the baseline level of cAMP achievable by the enzyme. PDE3 catalysis of cAMP is effectively inhibited by cGMP (Pyne *et al.*, 1987), thus in cells where PDE3 predominates, increased cGMP leads to increased cAMP.

Smooth muscle contracts following Ca²⁺-calmodulin activation of myosin light chain kinase (MLCK). cGK1 relaxes smooth muscle by lowering free cytoplasmic Ca²⁺ levels, but the principal means by which this is accomplished varies considerably between types of smooth muscle, animal species, and the nature of the contractile stimulus being antagonised (Vaandrager & de Jonge, 1996). cGKI has been implicated in: inhibition of G-protein activation of phospholipase C β; activation of Ca²⁺-ATPase activity at plasma membrane and sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR); hyperpolarisation of membrane potential through activation of Ca²⁺-activated K⁺ channels; inhibition of voltage operated Ca²⁺ channels; stimulation of the Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger; inhibition of SR IP₃ receptors. All of these actions require that the normally cytoplasmic cGKs must find membrane located targets, and specific anchor proteins may be involved. cGKI is already known to be targeted to specific anchor proteins of the cytoskeleton (MacMillan-Crow & Lincoln, 1994), and the discovery of further interactions is likely.

Blood pressure elevation to a degree that requires medical treatment is often

Blood pressure elevation to a degree that requires medical treatment is often

15 encountered in up to 15% of an adult population. In only 10-15% of these, a definite
cause for the hypertension can be found and in the rest, the "essential hypertension" has
to be treated without a hope for cure of the underlying disease. Long-standing elevation
of blood pressure, even quite moderate, damages vessels in the heart, kidneys and
brain and dramatically increases the risk for coronary heart disease, renal failure and
stroke. It has been shown that effective pharmacologic treatment of hypertension
substantially reduces morbidity and mortality from these conditions. The finding that
endothelial cells produce a local vascular relaxation factor, identified as nitric oxide (NO),
that activates guanylyl cyclase and increases cGMP that in turn leads to reduction in
vascular smooth muscle cell tone, has opened new possibilities for blood pressure
regulation / vasorelaxation based on modulation of the cellular levels of cGMP. A
number of the components in the cGMP system displays tissue specific distribution
(Vaandrager & de Jonge, 1996; Pyne et al., 1996). This increases the likelihood for
improved pharmacological specificity and fewer side-effects when using these as targets

for antihypertensive treatment instead of the traditional ones. It is the cGMP-dependent protein kinase (PKG) (Vaandrager & de Jonge, 1996) that is thought to mediate the intracellular effects of cGMP. The cGMP -dependent and -specific phosphodiesterases can serve as connectors to the cAMP system and terminators of cGMP effects (Pyne et al., 1996).

PDE5 has attracted attention since it is selective for degradation of cGMP versus cAMP.

35 Isoform-specific inhibitors for PDE5 are being developed by several companies and one

compound from Pfizer, Sildenafil, has proven selectivity for PDE5 and is currently being marketed as treatment against impotence (Viagra), originally a side-effect resulting from vasorelaxation in the corpus cavernosum. However the screening procedures currently used search only for direct enzymatic inhibitors of PDE and the compounds found are often not selective, inhibiting for instance both PDE 1 and 5 (e.g. Zaprinast (M&B 22948 RPR), Sch 59498 and Sch 51866). By the methods described herein and within appendix A, new chemical entities can be found which primarily will be specific modulators of PDE action, not inhibitors of the enzymatic action *per se*. Preferred compounds will inhibit the site-specific anchoring of PDEs which hydrolyse cGMP, and thereby reduce their effectiveness in controlling local concentrations cGMP within living cells.

The therapeutic potential of selective modulators of cGMP-related PDE action is not restricted to relaxation of smooth muscle cells but also encompasses other effects ascribed to PKG, such as inhibition of platelet activation (Chiu *et al.*, 1997: Vemulapalli *et al.*, 1996), inhibition of endothelial permeability increases in response to vasoactive substances (Raeburn & Karlsson, 1993), inhibition of the differentiation of osteoclasts (Holliday *et al.*, 1997) and light-induced resetting of circadian rythms (Mathur *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 1997).

20

The search for chemical inhibitors of the catalytic activity of specific PDE:s is currently one of the most intensive areas of pharmaceutical research, particularly so for PDE:s 4 and 5. Much progress has been made in this area, with several compounds known to have selective activity for particular families of PDE:s (reviewed in Perry and Higgs, 1998; Hughes *et al.*, 1997; Teixeira *et al.*, 1997). However, there has not yet been found a class of compounds able to select between isoenzymes within the same family, which is where the greatest opportunities lie. Without isoform specificity, certain difficulties can be expected with the use of enzymic inhibitors of PDE:s. Some of these difficulties are

30

outlined below.

In general, the effects a known inhibitor of the catalytic activity of a particular class of PDE:s may have on cyclic nucleotide levels often varies between different cell types. The reasons for this are several, but include: differences in the basal level of cyclase activity in distinct cell types, crosstalk between cAMP and cGMP systems, and differences in local concentrations of substrate within a cell which influences the degree of inhibition that can be attained by a simple competitive enzyme inhibitor (Perry and Higgs, 1998).

First, PDE inhibition is only useful if it produces the appropriate change in the activity of the dependent effectors, for instance activation of cAK when the concentration of cAMP can be increased above a threshold level. The rate of change in concentration depends in part on the activity of the cyclases which generate the cyclic nucleotides, and that basal level of activity differs from isoform to isoform, and therefore from cell type to cell type. In adipocytes, for example, AC activity is high and cAMP levels are kept at baseline only by a correspondingly high PDE activity. Hepatocytes on the other hand have a rather low AC activity. If both cell types share PDE:s of the same family, and are treated with a chemical inhibitor targeting that family, there will be a rapid increase in cAMP within adipocytes and activation of their cAKs, but no activation in hepatocytes, unless the AC is also stimulated.

Second, general inhibition of a particular isoform of PDE can have certain unavoidable consequences on other cyclic nucleotide pathways since cAMP and cGMP systems are often closely interlinked. Much of this crosstalk arises from PDE regulation by cyclic purpostides. When cGMP increases in platelets (e.g. following pitric cycle stimulation of

nucleotides. When cGMP increases in platelets (e.g. following nitric oxide stimulation of soluble GC, or PDE5 inhibition) it inhibits PDE3 and causes a concomitant rise in cAMP (Ashida and Sakuma, 1992). In adrenal glomerulosa cells, atrial natriuretic factor elevates cGMP but inhibits cAMP-stimulated aldosterone synthesis via cGMP-stimulation of PDE2 (MacFarland et al., 1991).

20 Third, the expected effects of PDE inhibition may be modified by differences in local concentrations of substrates, the reason being that most chemical inhibitors of PDE action are competitive with substrate, so their therapeutic profile is dependent on both the Michaelis-Menton equilibrium constant (K_M) and the substrate concentration in which they are operating (Perry and Higgs, 1998). Most effective inhibition will always occur at lowest substrate levels, but as a corollary, a locally increased substrate level will reduce the inhibition attained. In combination with subtle differences in isoform K_M values for an inhibitor, the desired spatial modulation of cyclic nucleotide levels within a cell could be difficult to obtain by simple competitive inhibition of catalytic activity.

Fourth, there is increasing evidence that cells respond to the prolonged use of agents that increase cyclic nucleotide concentrations by increasing the activity of endogenous levels of appropriate phophodiesterases (Torphy *et al.* 1995), and that one class of mechanism whereby this occurs is by increasing expression levels of PDE proteins (Swinnen *et al.*, 1989, 1991). There is even evidence to suggest that the use of selective inhibitors of different PDE families (eg rolipram for PDE4:s, cilostimide for PDE3,

35 zaprinast for PDE5 etc.), encourages cells and tissues to respond to catalytic inhibition

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by upregulating PDE:s specifically of the family type that is under inhibition. Full catalytic inhibition of PDE:s may therefore have self-defeating results, as cells attempt to compensate for lack of specific PDE activity. Careful modulation of local cyclic nucleotide levels within a cell through dislocation or inhibition of redistribution, which may not greatly affect global levels of cyclic nucleotide, may therefore prove to be a better and more effective means to achieve long term therapy.

The radically different methods of interference with PDE action as proposed below in this application should avoid many of the problems outlined above, principally because interference will be family and isoform specific and targeted not against catalytic activity of the PDE:s, but their spatial organisation within the cell.

Targeting of signalling enzymes is a recognised mechanism by which sensitivity. specificity, precision and control may be introduced into intracellular signalling pathways 15 (Pawson and Scott, 1997; Faux and Scott, 1996). The importance and occurrence of targeting as a phenomenon are described and discussed in appendix A. Of central importance to this application is the modulation of the effectiveness of signalling PDE:s through interference with their intracellular targeting. As already described, the many PDE:s known share much structural homology, and this is especially true within the 20 catalytic regions found towards the carboxylic acid terminals of the proteins. At the amino terminals much more heterogeneity is found, between families of PDE:s, between isoforms within families, and between splice variants derived from individual gene isoforms (Houslay and Milligan, 1997). Much of this heterogeneity appears to be associated with differences in targeting behaviour, at least in PDE4 isoforms and 25 variants (Scotland et al., 1998, Bolger et al., 1997), and by extension should apply to other PDEs as well since they are in overall character similar protein molecules with similar roles in cellular signalling. Evidence suggests that the amino terminal regions of PDE:s can serve to target isoforms to specific intracellular sites (Shakur et al., 1995; McPhee et al., 1995; Bolger et al., 30 1996; Pooley et al., 1997) and that they can regulate the functioning of the catalytic unit either through interaction with binding proteins (Shakur et al., 1995; O'Connell et al., 1996; Pyne et al., 1996) or through phosphorylation (Sette and Conti, 1996). Targeting appears to occur through protein-protein interactions with membrane- or cytoskeletallylocated proteins (Houslay, Sullivan and Bolger, 1998), and of these the membrane 35 associated proteins include both integral and peripherally adherent species. Such

interactions have been probed at a gross level through the use of nonionic detergents and elevated ionic strength (Scotland et al., 1998).

Four separate genes are known to produce PDE4:s in human and rat (PDE4A-D), and each of these produces multiple splice variants (more than 20 described to June 98),

- 5 many with unique amino terminal regions (Huston *et al.*, 1997; Bolger *et al.*, 1997; Obernolte *et al.*, 1997). Some variants have extensive deletions, even to the point of removing catalytic activity (Obernolte *et al.*, 1997). Differences in the amino terminal regions are presently contemplated to be important for determining differences in the subcellular localisation, activity and sensitivity to inhibitors amongst PDE4 isozymes
- 10 (Bolger, 1997; Scotland *et al.*, 1998). As an example, PDE4D1 and PDE4D2 are found only in cytosolic fractions, PDE4D3, D4 & D5 are all represented in both cytosolic and particulate fractions. PDE4D3 and D5 are both more sensitive to rolipram inhibition in the cytosolic phase than they are in the particulate fraction (Bolger *et al.*, 1997). Of the 3 "B" isozymes, PDE4B2 is approximately 10 fold more sensitive to rolipram in the particulate
- 15 fraction than in the cytosolic (Huston *et al.*, 1997). Certain PDE4 isozymes are known to have restricted tissue distributions, e.g. PDE4A8 and PDE4C-delta54 are found only in testis, PDE4C-791 in lung and a melanoma cell line G361 (Bolger *et al.*, 1996; Obernolte *et al.*, 1997). In other cells the expression of isozymes changes with cellular differentiation (Verghese *et al.*, 1995; Giorgi *et al.*, 1997; Bolger *et al.*, 1994; Essayan *et* 20 *al.*, 1997).
 - Certain PDE4 isozymes are known to associate with membranes, some with proteins bearing SH3 domains, and some to be purely cytosolic (Scotland *et al.*, 1998; Bolger *et al.*, 1997). A variant of PDE4A ("RD1") transfected into human thyroid carcinoma lines accumulates specifically in Golgi, and at the same time inhibits all expression of "native"
- 25 PDE1 in those cells (Pooley et al., 1997). These distinct locations are believed to reflect very different functions of the specific phosphodiesterases. A very clear demonstration of functional separation of PDE:s has been seen in renal mesangial cells. Immuno-inflammatory stimulation of these cells increases their production of reactive oxygen metabolites (ROM) and simultaneously increases proliferation. Specific inhibition of
- 30 PDE4 suppresses ROM production, but not proliferation. Specific inhibition of PDE3 inhibits proliferation but not ROM production (Chini *et al.*, 1997). Both responses are mediated by PKA but control of the cAMP pool is effectively separated.
 - Location of PDE:s to membranes brings them into contact with phospholipids. Certain PDE4 isozymes are activated by anionic phospholipids such as phosphatidyl serine and

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phosphatidic acid (Disanto *et al.*, 1995; Nemoz *et al.*, 1997). Dislocation from the membrane will inhibit such activation, and crosstalk with phopholipid signalling systems. Targeting or anchoring of PDE4:s is likely to have its greatest effect through compartmentalisation of cAMP signalling within cells (Houslay and Milligan, 1997).

5 Associated with the PDE4:s will be specific ACs together with specific isoforms of the effector cAK, or cAMP-operated ion channels. cAKs will likely be attached to specific

components have been mapped in cells (Houslay and Milligan, 1997; Scott and Pawson, 1997; Coghlan *et al.*, 1995) and allow for spatial and temporal gradients of cAMP to be established within cellular compartments. Targeted PDE4 species might serve to control threshold levels of cAMP in the environs of specific cAK molecules, perhaps protecting certain protein complexes from cAK-mediated phosphorylation or manipulating the activity levels of ACs that are necessary before cAK activation may occur.

AKAPs (A-kinase anchoring proteins). Specific subcellular distributions of these

15 Competitive chemical inhibitors are known which can selectively inhibit members of the PDE4 family. There are none known which can effectively select between the different gene products or splice variants of the PDE4 family (Perry and Higgs, 1998). This may be due to the particularly high degree of sequence homology within the proteins of this family around the catalytic site. Without splice-variant selectivity, there are likely to be 20 problems with long-term administration of PDE4 inhibitors, such as immunosuppression and metabolic disturbances, possibly with significant CNS effect as well (Teixeira et al., 1997) since PDE4:s are clearly involved in such a wide range of systems at the organismal level. For the family of PDE4 enzymes, the pyrollidone compound rolipram remains the "gold standard" reference inhibitor. However, its profile of serious side 25 effects prevented rolipram from becoming a compound of clinical utility. Principal side effects of rolipram are headaches, nausea, emesis and an unacceptable increase in gastric acid secretion (Barnes, 1995). The PDE4 family is likely to consist of more than the 20 or so isoforms already known in humans (Houslay, Sullivan and Milligan, 1998). Although a potent inhibitor of all known isoforms of PDE4s, the kinetics of inhibition are 30 complex and sensitivity varies significantly from isoform to isoform, and even for individual isoforms in different cell backgrounds or cellular compartments (Bolger et al., 1996; Huston et al., 1996; Jacobitz et al., 1996; McPhee et al., 1995; Owens et al., 1997; Wilson et al., 1994). The side effects of rolipram clearly indicate the potential problems associated with general PDE4 inhibition, while different isoform sensitivities, and 35 changing sensitivities in different cellular contexts, highlights the potential functional

diversity of the many PDE4 isoforms known, and therfore the therapeutic potential that lies in selective inhibition of individual isoforms.

So far only two PDE5 genes are known and two enzyme variants have been reported. In parallel with other PDE isoforms more splicing variants are to be expected from each gene. The enzyme is a homodimer, each subunit being 93 kDa. The structural organisation of the dimer is very similar to that of the cGKs.

PDE5s exist in two distinct forms: one membrane-bound (mPDE5) and one cytosolic (cPDE5) (Pyne et al., 1996). The mPDE5 is activated by PKA and is inhibited by a G-

protein dependent mechanism. It is assumed that cPDE5 is part of a "signalling cassette" with NO-regulated guanylate cyclase and PDE3. The latter construction will lead to very short-lived messages whereas the former allows for generation of prologed cGMP signals

Targeting or anchoring of PDE5s is likely to have its greatest effect through

compartmentalisation of cGMP signalling within cells. Associated with the PDE5s will be specific GCs together with specific isoforms of the effector cGK, or cGMP-operated ion channels. cGKs may be attached to specific G-kinase anchoring proteins. Specific subcellular distributions of these components will allow for spatial and temporal gradients of cGMP to be established within cellular compartments. Targeted PDE5 species might serve to control threshold levels of cGMP in the environs of specific cGK molecules, perhaps protecting certain protein complexes from cGK-mediated phosphorylation or manipulating the activity levels of GCs that are necessary before cGK activation may occur.

Competitive chemical inhibitors are known which can selectively inhibit PDE5s.

25 Relatively few isoforms of PDE5 are known to date. PDE5 is found rather specifically in vascular and airway smooth muscle. That sildenafil, with its 5 nM IC₅₀ for PDE5, affects only a subset of vascular smooth muscle is puzzling, but strongly suggests that either multiple PDE5 isoforms or states exist in different vascular smooth muscle, presumably with different sensitivities to sildenafil, or more likely, other cGMP-hydrolysing PDEs are important in different vascular smooth muscles.

As to other potentially important cGMP-hydrolysing PDE targets, many are doubtless yet to be discovered. PDE9:s have only been known since the end of 1997, PDE10:s since late 1998. PDE9:s have a rather general distribution (kidney, brain, lung), have a very high affinity for cGMP (about 70 nM) and are inhibitable by the PDE1/5 inhibitor

35 SCH51866 (1.55 μ M), but "not by sildenafil" (7 μ M, Soderling et al., 1998). Their

physiological roles and regulation have not been defined (Soderling *et al.*, 1998; Fisher *et al.*, 1998), but the best suggestions are that they may be involved in keeping cGMP at very low levels when activated, and may, in kidney, be involved in termination of ANP signalling, and therefore inhibition may help potentiate natriuresis without causing deleterious drops in blood pressure (Soderling *et al.*, 1998).

It is clear that PDEs possess heterogenity, particularly in their amino terminal, or "regulatory" regions, and the approach outlined in this application exploits those differences between isoforms and splice variants to produce what should be confined and defined therapeutic effects. Furthermore, in many cases it may be expected that dislocation of an active enzyme from a targeted site of action will have little effect on average cellular concentrations of their preferred cyclic nucleotide substrate, although significant increases may occur at the now PDE-free site of action. This may have significance where an acute short-term process is the therapeutic target, but an integrative gene-regulation effect may occur upon general, non-specific PDE inhibition and overall cyclic nucleotide increase in the cell.

Detailed disclosure

In the present specification and claims, the term "influence" covers any influence to
which the cellular response comprises a redistribution. Thus, e.g., heating, cooling, high
pressure, low pressure, humidifying, or drying are influences on the cellular response on
which the resulting redistribution can be quantified, but perhaps the most important
influence is the influence of contacting or incubating the cell or cells with a substance
which is known or suspected to cause a redistribution or modify a change of
redistribution. In another embodiment of the invention the influence could be substances
from a compound drug library.

In the present context, the term "green fluorescent protein" (GFP) is intended to indicate a protein which, when expressed by a cell, emits fluorescence upon exposure to light of the correct excitation wavelength (cf. Chalfie, M. et al. (1994) Science 263, 802-805). In the following, GFP in which one or more amino acids have been substituted, inserted or deleted is also termed "modified GFP". "GFP" as used herein includes wild-type GFP derived from the jelly fish *Aequorea victoria* and modifications of GFP, such as the blue fluorescent variant of GFP disclosed by Heim et al. (Heim, R. et al. (1994).

Proc.Natl.Acad.Sci. 91:26, pp 12501-12504), and other modifications that change the spectral properties of the GFP fluorescence, or modifications that exhibit increased fluorescence when expressed in cells at a temperature above about 30°C described in PCT/DK96/00051, published as WO 97/11094 on 27 March 1997 and hereby

- incorporated by reference, and which comprises a fluorescent protein derived from Aequorea Green Fluorescent Protein or any functional analogue thereof, wherein the amino acid in position 1 upstream from the chromophore has been mutated to provide an increase of fluorescence intensity when the fluorescent protein of the invention is expressed in cells. Preferred GFP variants are F64L-GFP, F64L-Y66H-GFP and F64L-S65T-GFP. An
- especially preferred variant of GFP for use in all the aspects of this invention is EGFP (DNA encoding EGFP which is a F64L-S65T variant with codons optimized for expression in mammalian cells is available from Clontech, Palo Alto, plasmids containing the EGFP DNA sequence, cf. GenBank Acc. Nos. U55762, U55763).
- 15 The terms "intracellular signalling pathway" and "signal transduction pathway" are intended to indicate the coordinated intracellular processes whereby a living cell transduces an external or internal signal into cellular responses. Said signal transduction will involve an enzymatic reaction said enzymes include but are not limited to protein kinases, GTPases, ATPases, protein phosphatases, phospholipases and cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases. The cellular responses include but are not limited to gene transcription, secretion, proliferation, mechanical activity, metabolic activity, cell death.

The term "second messenger" is used to indicate a low molecular weight component involved in the early events of intracellular signal transduction pathways.

The term "luminophore" is used to indicate a chemical substance which has the property of emitting light either inherently or upon stimulation with chemical or physical means. This includes but is not limited to fluorescence, bioluminescence, phosphorescence, chemiluminescence.

The term "mechanically intact living cell" is used to indicate a cell which is considered living according to standard criteria for that particular type of cell such as maintenance of normal membrane potential, energy metabolism, proliferative capability, and has not

experienced any physically invasive treatment designed to introduce external substances into the cell such as microinjection.

In the present context, the term "permeabilised living cell" is used to indicate cells where 5 a pore forming agent such as Streptolysin O or Staphylococcus Aureus α-toxin has been applied and thereby incorporated into the plasma membrane in the cells. This creates proteinaceous pores with a defined pore size in the plasma membranes of the exposed cells. Pores could also be made by electroporation, i.e. exposing the cells to high voltage discharges, a procedure that creates small holes in the plasma membrane by 10 coagulating integral membrane proteins. Treatment with a mild detergent such as saponin may accomplish the same thing. Common to all these treatments is that pores are formed only in the plasma membrane without affecting the integrity of cytoplasmic structural elements and organelles. The term living in this context means that the permeabilised cell or cells bathed in a solution mimicking the intracellular milieu still have 15 functional organelles, such as actively respiring mitochondria and endoplasmatic reticulum that can take up and release calcium ions, and functional structural elements. In one embodiment this method is applied so that substances that normally can not traverse the plasma membrane, but most likely exert their influence intracellularly, can be introduced and their influence studied. In another embodiment this method is used to 20 record the response to an influence from many cells simultaneously.

In the present context, the term "permeabilisation" is intended to indicate the selective disruption of the plasma membrane barrier so that soluble substances freely mobile in the cytosol may be lost from the interior of the cells. The permeabilisation can be achieved as described above under "permeabilised living cells" or by using other chemical detergents such as Triton X-100 or digitonin in carefully titrated amounts.

The term "physiologically relevant", when applied to an experimentally determined redistribution of an intracellular component, as measured by a change in the luminescence properties or distribution, is used to indicate that said redistribution can be explained in terms of the underlying biological phenomenon which gives rise to the redistribution.

The terms "image processing" and "image analysis" are used to describe a large family of digital data analysis techniques or combination of such techniques which reduce

ordered arrays of numbers (images) to quantitative information describing those ordered arrays of numbers. When said ordered arrays of numbers represent measured values from a physical process, the quantitative information derived is therefore a measure of the physical process.

5

The term "mammalian cell" is intended to indicate any living cell of mammalian origin. The cell may be an established cell line, many of which are available from The American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Virginia, USA) or a primary cell with a limited life span derived from a mammalian tissue, including tissues derived from a transgenic animal, or 10 a newly established immortal cell line derived from a mammalian tissue including transgenic tissues, or a hybrid cell or cell line derived by fusing different celltypes of mammalian origin e.g. hybridoma cell lines. The cells may optionally express one or more non-native gene products, e.g. receptors, enzymes, enzyme substrates, prior to or in addition to the fluorescent probe. Preferred cell lines include but are not limited to 15 those of fibroblast origin, e.g. BHK, CHO, BALB, or of endothelial origin, e.g. HUVEC, BAE (bovine artery endothelial), CPAE (cow pulmonary artery endothelial), HLMVEC (human lung microvascular endothelial cells), or of airway epithelial origin, e.g. BEAS-2B, or of pancreatic origin, e.g. RIN, INS-1, MIN6, bTC3, aTC6, bTC6, HIT, or of hematopoietic origin, e.g.primary isolated human monocytes, macrophages, neutrophils, 20 basophils, eosinophils and lymphocyte populations, AML-14, AML-193, HL-60, RBL-1, U937, RAW, JAWS, or of adipocyte origin, e.g. 3T3-L1, human pre-adipocytes, or of neuroendocrine origin, e.g. AtT20, PC12, GH3, muscle origin, e.g. SKMC, A10, C2C12, renal origin, e.g. HEK 293, LLC-PK1, or of neuronal origin, e.g. SK-N-DZ, SK-N-BE(2), HCN-1A, NT2/D1.

25

The term "hybrid polypeptide" is intended to indicate a polypeptide which is a fusion of at least a portion of each of two proteins, in this case at least a portion of the green fluorescent protein, and at least a portion of a catalytic and/or regulatory domain of a protein kinase. Furthermore a hybrid polypeptide is intended to indicate a fusion polypeptide comprising a GFP or at least a portion of the green fluorescent protein that contains a functional fluorophore, and at least a portion of a biologically active polypeptide as defined herein provided that said fusion is not the Glucocorticoid Receptor-GFP disclosed by Carey, KL et al. and Guiliano, KA et al., respectively. Thus, GFP may be N- or C-terminally tagged to a biologically active polypeptide, optionally via a linker portion or linker peptide consisting of a sequence of one or more amino acids.

The hybrid polypeptide or fusion polypeptide may act as a fluorescent probe in mechanically intact or permeabilised living cells carrying a DNA sequence encoding the hybrid polypeptide under conditions permitting expression of said hybrid polypeptide.

The term hybrid polypeptide or fusion polypeptide is intended also to include the term "fluorescent probe", where the latter is used to indicate a fluorescent fusion polypeptide comprising a GFP or any functional part thereof which is N- or C-terminally fused to a biologically active polypeptide as defined herein, optionally via a peptide linker consisting of one or more amino acid residues, where the size of the linker peptide in itself is not critical as long as the desired functionality of the fluorescent probe is maintained. A fluorescent probe according to the invention is expressed in a cell and basically mimics the physiological behaviour of the biologically active polypeptide moiety of the fusion polypeptide.

The term "kinase" is intended to indicate an enzyme that is capable of phosphorylating a 15 cellular component.

The term "protein kinase" is intended to indicate an enzyme that is capable of phosphorylating serine and/or threonine and/or tyrosine in peptides and/or proteins.

20 The term "phosphatase" is intended to indicate an enzyme that is capable of dephosphorylating phosphoserine and/or phosphothreonine and/or phosphotyrosine in peptides and/or proteins.

The term "cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase" is intended to indicate an enzyme that is capable of inactivating the second messengers cAMP and cGMP by hydrolysis of their 3'-ester bond.

In the present context, the term "biologically active polypeptide" is intended to indicate a polypeptide affecting intracellular processes upon activation, such as an enzyme which is active in intracellular processes or a portion thereof comprising a desired amino acid sequence which has a biological function or exerts a biological effect in a cellular system. In the polypeptide one or several amino acids may have been deleted, inserted and/or replaced to alter its biological function, e.g. by rendering a catalytic site inactive or by disrupting the targeting sequence. In another embodiment, one or several amino acids may have been deleted, inserted and/or replaced without altering the biological function

of the polypeptide, that is, it remains biologically equivalent. Preferably, the biologically active polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of proteins taking part in an intracellular signalling pathway, such as enzymes involved in the intracellular phosphorylation and dephosphorylation processes including kinases, protein kinases and phosphorylases as defined herein, but also proteins making up the cytoskeleton play important roles in intracellular signal transduction and are therefore included in the meaning of "biologically active polypeptide" herein. More preferably, the biologically active polypeptide is a protein which according to its state as activated or non-activated changes localisation within the cell, preferably as an intermediary component in a signal transduction pathway. Included in this preferred group of biologically active polypeptides are cAMP dependent protein kinases, 'inhibitor of NF-kappaB' kinases, and cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases.

The term "a substance" is intended to indicate any sample which has a biological

15 function or exerts a biological effect in a cellular system. The sample may be a sample of
a biological material such as a sample of a body fluid including blood, plasma, saliva,
milk, urine, or a microbial or plant extract, an environmental sample containing pollutants
including heavy metals or toxins, or it may be a sample containing a compound or
mixture of compounds prepared by organic synthesis or genetic techniques.

20

The phrase "any change in fluorescence" means any change in absorption properties, such as wavelength and intensity, or any change in spectral properties of the emitted light, such as a change of wavelength, fluorescence lifetime, intensity or polarisation, or any change in the intracellular localisation of the fluorophore. It may thus be localised to a specific cellular component (e.g. organelle, membrane, cytoskeleton, molecular structure) or it may be evenly distributed throughout the cell or parts of the cell.

The term "organism" as used herein indicates any unicellular or multicellular organism preferably originating from the animal kingdom including protozoans, but also organisms that are members of the plant kingdoms, such as algae, fungi, bryophytes, and vascular plants are included in this definition.

The term "nucleic acid" is intended to indicate any type of poly- or oligonucleic acid sequence, such as a DNA sequence, a cDNA sequence, or an RNA sequence.

The term "biologically equivalent" as it relates to proteins is intended to mean that a first protein is equivalent to a second protein if the cellular functions of the two proteins may substitute for each other, e.g. if the two proteins are closely related isoforms encoded by different genes, if they are splicing variants, or allelic variants derived from the same gene, if they perform identical cellular functions in different cell types, or in different species. The term "biologically equivalent" as it relates to DNA is intended to mean that a first DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide is equivalent to a second DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide if the functional proteins encoded by the two genes are biologically equivalent.

10

The term "fixed cells" is used to mean cells treated with a cytological fixative such as glutaraldehyde or formaldehyde, treatments which serve to chemically cross-link and stabilize soluble and insoluble proteins within the structure of the cell. Once in this state, such proteins cannot be lost from the structure of the now-dead cell.

15

- In the present context a "quantitative fluorescence redistribution assay" is intended to indicate an assay whereby it is possible to observe and quantify the subcelluar localisation and possible redistribution of an biologically active polypeptide, or part thereof, genetically or chemically tagged with a luminophore inside an intact living cell or cells or permeabilised living cells. The subcelluar location and redistribution may be monitored using fluorescence microscopy or fluorescence imaging microscopy but is preferably monitored using a fluorescence imaging plate reader or a fluorescence plate reader for improved throughput. A more thorough description is given in Appendix A.
- In the present context a "mortal cell line" is used to indicate animal cells that may grow in vitro, given the right conditions, but that have a definite life span of a number of cell divisions or days, week or months beyond which it is not at present possible to keep them alive.
- 30 In the present context an "immortalised cell line" is used to indicate cells of animal origin where the normal limitations for cell life and number of cell divisions do not apply.

 Essentially, such cells can live, grow and divide for an unlimited or very long (years to decades) time.

The term "targeting sequence" is used to indicate the amino-acid sequence of a biologically active polypeptide that contains the actual structure or structures necessary for association of the biologically active polypeptide with its native intracellular binding sites. The term "targeting sequence" is also used to indicate the amino-acid sequence of a protein that contains the actual structure or structures necessary for association of a biologically active polypeptide with the protein.

The term "targeting" is used to indicate the process whereby a spatially distributed protein is directed to the intracellular sites and maintained at the intracellular sites to which it is normally anchored or associated. These anchoring sites are normally assumed to be the intracellular sites where the protein has its optimal function for the cell.

The term "dislocate" and derivatives thereof is used to indicate the process whereby an intracellularly spatially distributed protein is forced to detach from its normal anchoring or association structures in the cells due to intercalation of another, preferably smaller, compound at the site of anchoring or association. This usually means that the optimal function of the protein within the cell is lost or reduced and that a larger portion of the protein molecules are freely mobile within the cytoplasm.

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In the present context a "screening assay" is intended to mean any measurement protocol, including materials, cells, instruments, chemicals, reagents, detection units, calibration and quantification procedures used to measure a response from mechanically intact or permeabilised living cells relevant to influences on an intracellular pathway.

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In the present context a "primary screening assay" is used to indicate the first screening assay in a discovery project that is used to select and sort all compounds available to the project according to the quantified effect of the compounds in the assay.

30 In the present context a "counterscreen" is intended to mean a screening assay that is relevant to a phenomenon that is undesirable seen from the point of view of the discovery project.

In the present context a "discovery project" is intended to mean the process whereby general or specific ideas about ways of how to modulate an intracellular signalling

pathway are exploited in order to find new chemical compounds that can be used to modulate the intracellular signalling pathway and thereby treat, reduce or abolish symptoms associated with a condition or a disease that is lethal, degenerative, performance-reducing or just uncomfortable to an animal, preferably a human being. The aim of the discovery project is to produce drug candidates that can be tested as potential drugs in an animal, preferably in human beings. The term "discovery project" also encompasses the actual group of individuals, screening assays, tests, machinery, cells, animals and compounds involved in different aspects of the project.

10 The term "tagging" is used to indicate the process whereby a luminophore is genetically or chemically attached to the protein, or part of the protein, of interest to the discovery project.

The term "primary hit" is used to indicate compounds identified in the primary screening assay as having at least the minimum level of desired effect that has been specified in the discovery project.

The term "primary lead compound" is used to indicate a primary hit that has at least the minimal level of desired potency and specificity predetermined by the discovery project.

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The term "dose-response relationship" is in the present context intended to mean a clear correlation between the quantified response of cells in a screening assay to application of an influence, such as a compound, and the concentration of the applied influence. The response to the influence may be both an up-regulation and a down-regulation of the quantitated parameter used in the screening assay.

In the present context, the term "potency" is intended to mean the ability of an influence to affect the process under study. The process under study may be, for example a screening assay or a specific physiological or pathophysiological response in an animal.

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In the present context, the term "selectivity" is intended to mean the difference in potency on the desired process, such as a screening assay, and an undesired process, such as a counterscreen, with the view of the discovery project. An influence or a compound is said to display selectivity if the potency for the desired process is higher than for the undesired process.

In the present context, the term "structure-activity relationship" or "SAR" is intended to mean the situation where a direct relationship exists between a compound and modifications made to the compound and the activity of the compound and the modifications made to the compound in one or more screening assays. The process of building a SAR may be used to direct the chemical construction of new compounds with higher potency and selecivity than the original compound.

The term "drug candidate lead" is used to indicate compounds that may be pursued by a discovery project as potential candidates for the final outcome of the project.

In the present context, the term "efficacy" is intended to mean the ability of a compound to affect the process or condition under study. It is closely related to the term "potency" but is in the present context used when relating to effects of a compound on more complex screening assays than the primary screening assay or counterscreens and when relating to effects of a compound in animals.

In the present context, the term "toxicity" is intended to mean that a compound in some way is toxic to cells, tissues or animals. The toxicity means that the cells, tissues or animals will in some way be harmed if the compound is applied at a sufficient concentration. The effects may ultimately lead to cell, tissue or animal death or a limited life compared to the normal condition.

In the present context, the term "physiology" is intended to mean the normal function of biological and biochemical processes inside cells, between cells and in the whole organism or animal.

In the present context, the term "pathophysiology" is intended to mean deviations from the normal function of biological and biochemical processes inside cells, between cells and in the whole organism or animal that may be part of a condition or disease.

In the present context, the term "pathogenesis" is intended to mean the process, be it genetical, biological, biochemical, chemical or environmental, that ultimately may explain, at least in part, the apparent pathophysiology associated with a condition or disease in an animal.

In the present context, the term "fractionated cells" is intended to mean the outcome of a simple division of initially mechanically intact living cells into two fractions, particulate (the components that can be sedimented by centrifugation at more than 10 000xg and not more than 100 000xg for 10 minutes) and soluble fraction (the soluble components and small membrane fragments that do not sediment), after subjecting the cells to plasma membrane disruption either mechanically with some form of homogeniser or sonicator or osmotically (hypoosmotic shock) or through some kind of permeabilisation of the plasma membrane with detergents, toxins or electroporation.

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The term "parenteral route of administration" is used to indicate the administration of a drug or compound in solution to an animal, such as a mammal or a human, by injection or infusion of the drug or compound into the bloodstream of the animal via an injection needle iserted into one of the animals blood vessels, preferably a vein.

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type present there.

The term "oral route of administration" is used to indicate the administration of a drug or compound in solution or as a solid to an animal, such as a mammal or a human, by placing the drug or compound in the mouth of the animal so that the animal itself can swallow the drug or compound or have it delivered to the stomach or intestine by intubation. When the drug or compound enters the stomach and intestine it will be taken up over the mucosa into the bloodstream and administered via the blood stream to the tissues and organs where it is to exert its effect, or it will be acting locally in the stomach and intestine.

25 The term "pulmonary route of administration" is used to indicate the administration of a drug or compound as an aerosol with either solid or liquid particles to an animal, such as a mammal or a human, by placing the drug or compound container close to or in contact with the mouth and/or nose of the animal so that the animal itself can inhale the drug or compound aerosol. When the drug or compound enters the peripheral bronchioloi and alveoli it will be taken up over the alveolar membrane, either into the bloodstream and administered via the blood stream to the tissues and organs where it is to exert its effect or it will act locally in the lungs on lung, vessel and muscle cells as well as any other cell

The term "cutaneous route of administration" is used to indicate the administration of a drug or compound in solution or as a solid to an animal, such as a mammal or a human, by placing the drug or compound on the skin of the animal. The drug can then enter the blood vessels under the skin as it is permeaing the skin and thereby be taken up into the 5 bloodstream and administered via the blood stream to the tissues and organs where it is to exert its effect. It may also exert an effect locally on the site of application on the skin.

The term "rectal route of administration" is used to indicate the administration of a drug or compound in solution or as a solid to an animal, such as a mammal or a human, by 10 placing the drug or compound in the rectal cavity of the animal. When the drug or compound enters the rectum and parts of the large intestine it will be taken up over the mucosa into the bloodstream and administered via the blood stream to the tissues and organs where it is to exert its effect, or it will act locally in the rectum and parts of the large intestine.

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Several IKKs and very many phosphodiesterases (PDE:s) are known. They are grouped in families according to functional criteria. Within each family there may be several members - isoforms- encoded by different genes. Each isoform may give rise to several splice variants. This hierarchy is evidenced at the sequence level: isoforms are more 20 similar to each other than to members of other families; splice variants are more similar to each other than to other PDE:s. Each specific PDE thus contains sequences that are unique to itself, as well as sequences that are shared between isoforms and/or families. When setting up a program to identify pharmacological agents that affect the intracellular distribution of a target IKK or PDE, it is first necessary to choose the target from the IKKs 25 and PDE:s known. This may be done according to various criteria. A first criterion is that it is imperative that the target IKK or PDE be present in the tissue or cell type(s) where the pharmacological agent is to exert its effect. A second criterion is that it is desirable that either the target or a specific anchoring/targeting site not be present in tissues or cell types where no pharmacological effects are desired.

Establishing the expression patterns of IKKs and PDE:s in relation to tissues and cell types is best done using the methods of detection of mRNA, e.g. Northern analysis, which is a well established procedure. Briefly, mRNA isolated from a given source is probed with a labelled nucleotide, whose sequence is complementary to the mRNA or a 35 region in a mRNA of interest. The assay allows the investigator to determine the

stringency of the probing, i.e. to correlate the resulting signal(s) with sequence similarities.

As a first step, the nucleotide sequences of IKKs or PDE:s are compiled and inspected to identify regions that are unique to specific IKKs or PDE:s as well as regions that are 5 shared among several, many, or all IKKs or PDE:s. Nucleotide sequences may be found in a depository of genetic information, e.g. GenBank, which is a well known resource. The inspection of the sequences may be aided by using computer programs that were developed to align several or many sequences, and in so doing highlighting regions of similarity or lack of the same. Many of these are presented and explained in great detail 10 in e.g. Sequence Data Analysis Guidebook /edited by S.R.Swindell, Methods in Molecular Biology vol. 70 (1997), from Humana Press Inc. Totowa, New Jersey. When sequences have been identified that are unique to an IKK, or a PDE, or respectively shared by several or many IKKs or PDE:s, oligonucleotide probes based on these sequences may be designed and synthesized. The use of such probes to detect 15 mRNA is well established in the research community, see e.g. Basic DNA and RNA Protocols/edited by A.J.Harwood, Methods in Molecular Biology vol. 58 (1996), from Humana Press Inc. Totowa, New Jersey. E.g. Life Technologies offer to synthesize specified oligonucleotides.

- 20 In addition to oligonucleotide probes, mRNA extracted from the tissues and cell types of interest is required, preferably in a form ready to use in Northern analysis. Several companies offer such material, e.g. Invitrogen and Clontech. Briefly, they provide RNA extracted from a great many human and non-human tissues or cell types immobilized on membranes, as an array or size-fractionated.
- In a next step, a detectable label needs to be attached to the oligonucleotide probe(s). The label is traditionally in the form of a radioactive isotope, but may to advantage be a chemiluminescent reagent or a fluorescent agent. See e.g. DNA Probes by Keller and Manak (1993), from Macmillan Publishers. Several companies offer reagents to label nucleotide probes, e.g. Ambion (Austin, Texas) and Molecular Probes (Eugene, Oregon).
- The actual probing procedure involves contacting the immobilized mRNA (s) with the probe(s), washing away unbound probe(s) and detecting the signal(s) from the probe(s) that bound under the conditions tested, a positive signal indicating that the target(s) of the probe(s) was present in the sample(s) subjected to the test. In its simplest form, the test is "one-to-one", i.e. each sample of mRNA is exposed to each probe. However, it may be advantageous to exploit the sequence hierarchy of the IKKs or PDE:s, by first

probing arrays of mRNA from multiple sources with family-specific probes, then examining first positives with isotype-specific probes, and then examining the secondary positives in detail with very specific probes. One could also multiplex the probing by adding different distuingishable fluorescent labels to the probes, thus obtaining information from several probes in one experiment.

The outcome of the analysis is information regarding the expression pattern(s) of IKKs and PDE:s.

Based on their expression pattern(s) specific IKKs and/or PDE:s are then selected for further study, and genetic probes are constructed.

In general, a genetic probe, i.e. a "GeneX"-GFP fusion or a GFP-"GeneX" fusion, is constructed using PCR with "GeneX"-specific primers followed by a cloning step to fuse "GeneX" in frame with GFP. The fusion may contain a short vector derived sequence between "GeneX" and GFP (e.g. part of a multiple cloning site region in the plasmid)

15 resulting in a peptide linker between "GeneX" and GFP in the resulting fusion protein.

The fusion may be made using ploymerase chain reaction techniques, which are common laboratory procedures, see e.g. PCR Protocols/edited by B.A.White, Methods in Molecular Biology vol. 15 (1993), from Humana Press Inc. Totowa, New Jersey.

20 In more detail, the steps involved include:

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- Design of gene-specific primers. Inspection of the sequence of the gene allows design of gene-specific primers to be used in a PCR reaction. Typically, the top-strand primer encompasses the ATG start codon of the gene and the following ca. 20 nucleotides, while the bottom-strand primer encompasses the stop codon and the ca. 20 preceding nucleotides, if the gene is to be fused behind GFP, i.e. a GFP-"GeneX" fusion. If the gene is to be fused in front of GFP, i.e. a "GeneX"-GFP fusion, a stop codon must be avoided. Optionally, the full length sequence of GeneX may not be used in the fusion, but merely the part which localizes and redistributes like GeneX in response to a signal.
- In addition to gene-specific sequences, the primers contain at least one recognition sequence for a restriction enzyme, to allow subsequent cloning of the PCR product. The sites are chosen so that they are unique in the PCR product and compatible with sites in the cloning vector. Furthermore, it may be necessary to include an exact number of nucleotides between the restriction enzyme site and the gene-specific sequence in order to establish the correct reading frame of the fusion gene and/or a

translation initiation concensus sequence. Lastly, the primers always contain a few nucleotides in front of the restriction enzyme site to allow efficient digestion with the enzyme.

- Identifying a source of the gene to be amplified. In order for a PCR reaction to produce a product with gene-specific primers, the gene-sequence must initially be present in the reaction, e.g. in the form of cDNA. The results of the extensive expression analysis performed previously will provide clear information regarding what tissue(s) are useful as source material. cDNA libraries from a great variety of tissues or cell types from various species are commercially available, e.g. from Clontech (Palo Alto), Stratagene (La Jolla) and Invitrogen (San Diego). Many genes are also available in

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- 10 cloned form from The American Type Tissue Collection (Virginia).
- Optimizing the PCR reaction. Several factors are known to influence the efficiency and specificity of a PCR reaction, including the annealing temperature of the primers, the concentration of ions, notably Mg2+ and K+, present in the reaction, as well as pH of the reaction. If the result of a PCR reaction is deemed unsatisfactory, it might be 15 because the parameters mentioned above are not optimal. Various annealing temperatures should be tested, e.g. in a PCR machine with a built-in temperature gradient, available from e.g. Stratagene (La Jolla), and/or various buffer compositions should be tried, e.g. the OptiPrime buffer system from Stratagene (La Jolla).
- 20 Cloning the PCR product. The vector into which the amplified gene product will be cloned and fused with GFP will already have been taken into consideration when the primers were designed. When choosing a vector, one should at least consider in which cell types the probe subsequently will be expressed, so that the promoter controlling expression of the probe is compatible with the cells. Most expression vectors also contain one or more selective markers, e.g. conferring resistance to a 25 drug, which is a useful feature when one wants to make stable transfectants. The selective marker should also be compatible with the cells to be used.

The actual cloning of the PCR product should present no difficulty for the person skilled 30 in the art as it typically will be a one-step cloning of a fragment digested with two different restriction enzymes into a vector digested with the same two enzymes. If the cloning proves to be problematic, it may be because the restriction enzymes did not work well with the PCR fragment. In this case one could add longer extensions to the end of the primers to overcome a possible difficulty of digestion close to a fragment end, or one 35 could introduce an intermediate cloning step not based on restriction enzyme digestion.

Several companies offer systems for this approach, e.g. Invitrogen (San Diego) and Clontech (Palo Alto).

Once the gene has been cloned and, in the process, fused with the GFP gene, the resulting product, usually a plasmid, should be carefully checked to make sure it is as expected. The most exact test would be to obtain the nucleotide sequence of the fusion-gene.

Once a DNA construct for a probe has been generated, its functionality and usefulness may be tested by subjecting it to the following tests:

- 10 Transfecting it into cells capable of expressing the probe. The fluorescence of the cell is inspected soon after, typically the next day. At this point, two features of cellular fluorescence are noted:
 - The intensity should usually be at least as strong as that of unfused GFP in the cells. If it is not, the sequence or quality of the probe-DNA might be faulty, and should be carefully checked.
 - The sub-cellular localization is an indication of whether the probe is likely to perform well.

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If it localizes as expected for the gene in question, e.g. is excluded from the nucleus, it can immediately go on to a functional test. If the probe is not localized soon after the transfection procedure, it may be because of overexpression at this point in time, as the cell typically will have taken of very many copies of the plasmid, and localization will occur in time, e.g. within a few weeks, as plasmid copy number and expression level decreases. If localization does not occur after prolonged time, it may be because the fusion to GFP has destroyed a localization function, e.g. masked a protein sequence

- essential for interaction with its normal cellular anchor-protein. In this case the opposite fusion might work, e.g. if GeneX-GFP does not work, GFP-GeneX might, as two different parts of GeneX will be affected by the proximity to GFP. If this does not work, the proximity of GFP at either end might be a problem, and it could be attempted to increase the distance by incorporating a longer linker between GeneX and GFP in the DNA construct.
 - If there is no prior knowledge of localization, and no localization is observed, it may be because the probe should not be localized at this point, because such is the nature of the protein fused to GFP. It should then be subjected to a functional test.

In a functional test, the cells expressing the probe are treated with at least one compound known to perturb, usually by activating, the signalling pathway on which the probe is expected to report by redistributing itself within the cell.

- If the redistribution is as expected, e.g. if prior knowledge tell that it should translocate from location X to location Y, it has passed the first critical test. In this case it can go on to further characterization and quantification of the response.
 - If it does not perform as expected, it may be because the cell lacks at least one component of the signalling pathway, e.g. a cell surface receptor, or there is species incompatibility, e.g. if the probe is modelled on sequence information of a human
- geneproduct, and the cell is of hamster origin. In both instances one should identify other cell types for the testing process where these potential problems would not apply. If there is no prior knowledge about the pattern of redistribution, the analysis of the redistribution will have to be done in greater depth to identify what the essential and indicative features are, and when this is clear, it can go on to further characterization and quantification of the response.
 - If no feature of redistribution can be identified, the problem might be as mentioned above, and the probe should be retested under more optimal cellular conditions.
- Libraries for cloning of cDNA libraries in the present discovery plan are naturally related to the target tissues of the projects. For ultimately finding lead compounds useful in the treatment of asthma the cloning libraries should preferably be obtained from one ore more of the following tissue or cells types: Bronchial smooth muscle, Lung microvascular endothelial cells, eosinophil granulocytes, Th1 or 2 lymphocytes and alveolar macrophages.
- For ultimately finding lead compounds useful in the treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases the cloning libraries should preferably be obtained from one ore more of the following tissue or cell types: Th1 or 2 lymphocytes, T-lymphocytes, B-lymphocytes, Monocytes, Eosinophil granulocytes, Neutrophil granulocytes, Basophil granulocytes, Tissue specific macrophages (such as the liver Kupffer cells and skin Langhans cells),
 microvascular endothelial cells, vascular endothelial cells, antigen presenting cells, joint connective and synovial cells. For ultimately finding lead compounds useful in the
 - connective and synovial cells. For ultimately finding lead compounds useful in the treatment of depression the cloning libraries should preferably be obtained from one or more of the various tissue regions of the brain containing noradrenergic neurons. For ultimately finding lead compounds useful in the treatment of jet lag or circadian clock

resetting the cloning libraries should preferably be obtained from one or more of the various tissues of the brain such as the pineal gland, hypothalamus and substantia nigra. For ultimately finding lead compounds useful in the treatment of hyper- and hypotension and erectile dysfunction the cloning libraries should preferably be obtained from one or more of the following tissue or cell types: vascular smooth muscle, vascular smooth muscle from resistance vessels on the arterial side of the vascular system, vascular smooth muscle from capacitance vessels on the venous side of the vascular system, vascular smooth muscle cells from small arteries, arterioles, venules or veins, smooth vascular cells lines such as T/G HA-VSMCA10 and A7r5.

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The cells should always be of animal origin, most likely of mammalian origin and preferably of human origin. The cells could be derived from normal tissue or from tissue of an individual animal having a disease or condition of interest for the project. The cells may also be a mortal or immortalised cell line where the initial cell clone has been derived from a tissue or cell type as described above. Depending on the discovery project the cells of interest for screening assays will vary but may be chosen from the above mentioned categories.

Once a genetic construct containing the protein of interest and the luminophore, from 20 here on referred to as "the original fluorescent probe", has been transfected into a relevant cell type, as described above under 'preferred cell types for cloning libraries' the cells are monitored for the appearance of spatially distributed or randomly distributed intracellular fluorescence. Based on prior knowledge regarding the distribution of the actual protein different patterns can be expected. If for example previous studies have 25 found the protein associated only with the particulate fraction of fractionated cells, it can be expected to find a spatial distribution of the original fluorescent probe to the plasma membrane, internal membrane/organelle structures or structural cytoplasmic elements such as microtubules and microfilaments. If on the other hand previous studies report that the protein has been found mostly in the soluble fraction of fractionated cells one 30 can expect to find a homogenous or nonhomogenous distribution of the original fluorescent probe throughout the cytoplasm and perhaps also in the nucleus. For proteins where previous studies have found a mixed localisation to both the particulate and soluble fraction of fractionated cells any mixture in the two distribution patterns mentioned above for the original fluorescent probe can be expected. For proteins where 35 no prior knowledge is at hand a simple cell fractionation and Western Blotting can be

made, one can use immunohistochemistry of fixed cells of relevance or one can decide to rely on the distribution observed for the original fluorescent probe. At this stage of the project, a normal distribution pattern of the original fluorescent probe may be established after such studies as outlined above. The effects of physiologically important and relevant cellular activation on the distributed pattern of the original fluorescent probe is also established. It will also become evident if the pattern of distribution changes, i.e. if a redistribution of the original fluorescent probe occurs as a consequence of applying a physiologically important and relevant influence.

- The stategy described herein is used to search for chemical entities which can interfere with the protein-protein interactions that occur amongst biologically active polypeptides and their anchoring/regulating partners, and thereby interfere with the effectiveness of a biologically active polypeptide's action within its cellular environment. The strategy will have different effects, and require slightly different discovery methods depending on the nature of the interaction. The possibilities are as follows:
- 1) A biologically active polypeptide is permanently located at its targeting point, and either remains permanently active there, or its activity is modulated in some way by post-translational modification such as phosphorylation or by binding of modulators to non-catalytic regulatory sites. Dislocation from the targeting site will remove the biologically active polypeptide from a localised site of action, and may also lead to inactivation of its inherent catalytic activity.
- 2) A biologically active polypeptide is permanently located at its targeting point, and remains inactive there until its activity is modulated in some way by post-translational modification, such as phosphorylation or by binding of modulators to non-catalytic regulatory sites. Dislocation from the targeting site will remove the biologically active polypeptide from a localised site of action, and may also lead to activation of its inherent catalytic activity, albeit away from its original anchoring site.
- 30 3) A biologically active polypeptide is inactive in its unattached or untargeted form, and when activated (as described in "1" above), or partially activated, it redistributes within the cell and becomes attached to its targeting site, its activity being restricted to the anchoring site and possibly enhanced by interaction with the anchoring protein or some associated factor, or at some later time inhibited by the anchoring protein or an associated regulatory factor. Any agent which prevents association of the biologically active polypeptide with its anchoring or targeting site will prevent it from locating to the

preferred site of action, and may also prevent the biologically active polypeptide from becoming fully activated by the appropriate stimulus whilst in the untargeted state.

- A biologically active polypeptide is active in its unattached or untargeted form, and when inactivated (as described in "1" above), or partially inactivated, it redistributes within the cell and becomes attached to its targeting site, whereby its activity is inhibited by interaction with the anchoring protein or an associated regulatory factor. Subsequent stimuli may then activate and release the biologically active polypeptide. Any agent which prevents association of the biologically active polypeptide with its anchoring or targeting site will prevent it from relocating to the anchoring position, and may also prevent the biologically active polypeptide from ever being inactivated. In addition, if the biologically active polypeptide cannot target to its anchoring site, it may not be possible subsequently to activate the biologically active polypeptide in the appropriate way in the untargeted state.
- 15 When a specific subcellular distribution of a GFP-based IKK or PDE probe has been identified, it may be advantageous to narrow down which part of the IKK or PDE is responsible for this effect. The advantage is twofold: It may suggest the design of peptide leads, and it may eventually aid in defining the binding partner. Knowledge of both partners involved in specific binding may aid in the selection of compound libraries
 20 to screen for inhibition of the specific binding.
- To identify the region of the IKK or PDE involved in specific binding, one may make GFP-based fusions with progressively shorter parts of the IKK or PDE, and examine the cellular distribution of these constructs. If there is prior knowledge of functional domains, one may start with the domain believed to confer specific binding to a subcellular
 - one may start with the domain believed to confer specific binding to a subcellular structure. The generation of constructs to test may consist of selecting a particular part of the IKK or PDE to fuse to GFP, or it may involve the generation of in-frame deletions in the IKK or PDE part of the fusion. Both approaches have been widely used in molecular genetic studies.
- 30 When a region has been identified that appears responsible for conferring a specific subcellular distribution upon an IKK or a PDE, the amino acid residues most important for this trait may be identified by a more detailed analysis, e.g. substituting them one by one with e.g. an alanine residue, a so called Ala-scan, which also has been used extensively in molecular genetic studies.
- To identify the identity of the cellular protein partaking in the specific distribution of the IKK or PDE, one may exploit the knowledge about the region of the IKK or PDE

responsible for the subcellular distribution; for example, one may use the region of the IKK or PDE as bait in a genetic two hybrid screen to pull out its binding partner. Several companies offer two hybrid systems, e.g. Life Technologies.

5 The knowledge about the normal distribution of the original fluorescent probe is used to establish which part or which parts of the terminal (or entire) amino-acid sequence that is important for the attachment of this fluorescent probe to subcellular structures, giving it its specific spatially distributed pattern in the cell or cells, when such a pattern has been established as the normal distribution of this fluorescent probe. This may be
10 accomplished by creating new fluorescent probes where a systematic deletion of short N- or C-terminal or internal sequences (number of DNA bases) of the original fluorescent probe are made. These new shorter variants of the of the original fluorescent probe construct are transfected into the cells of interest and then the cells are examined for spatial distribution of the new fluorescent probes as described above for the original
15 fluorescent probe. In those cells where the new fluorescent probe distribution pattern is different from the original fluorescent probe distribution pattern it is evident that part of the, or the entire, targeting sequence has been deleted. The DNA- or amino-acid sequence of the missing part therefore contains the structural information necessary for

association of the original fluorescent probe with its intracellular binding sites.

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Peptides for inhibition of the established normal distribution of the original fluorescent probe are designed according to the hypothesis, that the deduced targeting sequence, or sequences, in the original fluorescent probe amino-acid sequence are the important sequences for the actual spatial distribution of the original fluorescent probe in intact living cells, is tested. This is done by producing peptides of identical amino-acid sequence as the deduced targeting sequence or parts thereof and introducing them into the cytoplasm, either by microinjection or transient or permanent permeabilisation, of cells containing the original fluorescent probe and thereafter monitoring the spatial distribution of the original fluorescent probe in the cells. If the deduced targeting sequence or sequences are of importance for the actual spatial distribution of the original fluorescent probe and thereby disrupt the normal distribution of the original fluorescent probe and thereby disrupt the normal distribution of the original fluorescent probe. In order to have this effect, the introduction of the peptides should change the original distribution pattern so that a decrease in fluorescence of 10% or more, compared to the pattern before their introduction, can be

detected. This is done by observing the same cells before and after administration of the peptides. When peptides that fulfil this criterion have been found they are called 'peptide leads' and will hereafter be referred to using this expression. These peptide leads can now be used as a basis for the design of organic molecules that can be used eventually to disrupt the spatial distribution of the original fluorescent probe but also as control compounds in screening assays.

PS473 and derivatives thereof show a discrete intracellular localisation that allow establishment of assay systems valuable in the screening for compounds that modulate targeting of said probes. IKKβ interacts with multiple components of the IkappaB complex. Construction of the described assay systems has allowed us to screen for compounds that interact with specific or multiple targeting sites. This approach allow for development of compounds that through modulation of one (or several) of multiple targeting sites of IKKβ (or other IKKs) will provoke either a partial or a complete inhibition of the NF-kappaB activation. In addition cell specific anchoring will allow design of compounds that only affect defined cell types.

In parallel to the above mentioned step wherein peptide leads are defined, the distribution pattern found for the original fluorescent probe is compared to the naturally occurring spatial distribution of the protein on which the original fluorescent probe is based. This may be accomplished by observing fixed primary cells separated from or still within the tissue of interest and fixed cells that contain the original fluorescent probe. Thereafter the protein is stained using ordinary immunocytochemical or immunohistochemical methods and the spatial distribution revealed by this staining procedure is compared to the spatial distribution of the original fluorescent probe. It is desirable, but not required, that a high degree of correlation between the two patterns obtained in this step can be observed.

Establishment of a primary screening assay is normally done by making use of the cells of interest containing the original fluorescent probe as the basis for a screening assay. Depending on the knowledge acquired about the behaviour of the original fluorescent probe when subjecting the cells to physiologically relevant influences the assay procedure can be chosen: 1. If the fluorescent probe normally is targeted to specific sites and stays associated with these sites during stimulation of the intracellular pathway, the assay should preferably be designed to detect dislocation of the original fluorescent

probe from the targeting sites in mechanically intact or permeabilised living cells. This is an assay where the dislocation can be detected within minutes after application of an influence and the time frame for the detection and time for exposing the cells to an influence should be chosen to match this. 2. If the desire is to disrupt the actual targeting 5 event rather than dislocate already targeted fluorescent probe the influence may need hours to produce a detectable response. The actual measurement, still of a change in the fluorescence or luminescence distribution pattern compared to the normal distribution pattern for the original fluorescent probe, may be made at two time points; before and after the influence has exerted any effect it may have. This is an assay where the effect 10 of an influence may require several hours to produce a detectable response and the time frame for the detection and time for exposing the cells to an influence should be chosen to match this. 3. If the fluorescent probe normally redistributes between two intracellular sites upon activation of the intracellular pathway one may either want to disrupt the initial targeting or dislocate the original fluorescent probe from its initial or resting anchoring 15 site. In this case procedure no. 1 above may be used. If the desire instead is to inhibit the association of the original fluorescent probe with the site it redistributes to during activation of the intracellular pathway the targeting sequence of this site should be in focus for the lead peptide generation. This is an assay where the redistribution may be detected within minutes after application of an influence and the time frame for the 20 detection and time for exposing the cells to an influence should be chosen to match this. Furthermore, any influence applied to inhibit the targeting of the original fluorescent probe upon its redistribution may need to be added to the cells before activation of the intracellular pathway.

While the original fluorescent probe and peptide leads will be used in the actual primary screening assay, it is also desirable to have a counterscreen or counterscreens directed at protein isoforms that one does not wish to affect. In order to accomplish this, constructs are made for new fluorescent probes encoding the protein isoforms tagged with GFP. These constructs are subsequently transfected into the cells of interest. When the new fluorescent probes are expressed in the cells, some of the cells are chosen as the basis for new cell lines that can be used in the counterscreen or counterscreens.

Suitable probes for this purpose comprise DNA constructs encoding fusion polypeptides comprising forms of IKKα, IKKβ, IKKγ or NIK and GFP; PDE1, PDE2, PDE3, PDE4, PDE5, PDE6, PDE7, PDE8, PDE9 or PDE10 and GFP; PKA catalytic subunit and GFP.

In a preferred embodiment the DNA constructs will encode fusion polypeptides comprising isoforms of IKKβ, PDE 4, mPDE5, PKA catalytic subunit and GFP.

5 In a much preferred embodiment the DNA construct is selected from table 1.

Table 1 list of the fusion constructs of the invention by the names used herein as well as by reference to relevant SEQ ID NOs of sequences of DNA encoding the construct and full amino acid sequences

Fusion construct	DNA sequence SEQ ID NO:	Protein Sequence SEQ ID NO:
PDE 4D3 - EGFP	1	2
PDE 4D4 - EGFP	3	4
PDE 4D5 - EGFP	5	6
PDE 5 - EGFP	7	8
IKKβ - EGFP	9	10
NF-KappaB - EGFP	11	12
EGFP - ΙΚ Κ β	13	14
EGFP - IKKβL2	15	16

10

The cell lines established for the primary screen and the counterscreen, or counterscreens, are used to establish peptide leads that more specifically dislocate the desired isoform of the protein of interest compared to other isoforms of the same protein. The peptide leads are introduced into the cells as described above and the changes in spatial distribution of the original and counterscreen fluorescent probes are quantified and dose-response relationships are established for each lead peptide. Thereafter the dose-response relationships are compared. A peptide lead is considered specific for the original fluorescent probe if the dose of the peptide required to dislocate at least 10% of the fluorescent probes in the counterscreen or conterscreens are at least two times higher than the dose required to dislocate 10% of the original fluorescent probe. The lead peptides with the biggest dose difference when comparing the primary and the counterscreen dose-response relationships are chosen as the basis for the next step in the discovery project.

In one embodiment the primary screening assay and counterscreen or counterscreens
are used to define specificity of the peptide leads by using a procedure that compares
their ability to cause a dislocation, disruption of targeting or inhibition of redistribution of
the original fluorescent probe in the primary screening assay to their ability to cause a

dislocation, disruption of targeting or inhibition of redistribution of the new fluorescent probes in the counterscreen or counterscreens.

In a preferred embodiment the dose of a peptide lead required to cause a quantified dislocation, disruption of targeting or inhibition of redistribution of the original fluorescent probe of at least 10% in the primary screening assay is 50% or less of the dose required to cause a quantified dislocation, disruption of targeting or inhibition of redistribution of the new fluorescent probes of at least 10% in the counterscreen or counterscreens.

- The invention provides for a specificity index which may be constructed describing a

 numerical relationship, with the primary screening asay result first, of the dose required
 to produce half-maximal effect in the primary assay compared to the dose required to
 produce half-maximal effect in the counterscreen or counterscreens.
 - In one embodiment the peptide leads chosen for further use in the discovery project have a specificity index of 1 to 2.
- 15 In another embodiment the peptide leads chosen for further use in the discovery project have a specificity index between 1 to 2 and 1 to 10.
 - In a further embodiment the peptide leads chosen for further use in the discovery project have a specificity index between 1 to 11 and 1 to 100.
- In yet a further preferred embodiment the peptide leads chosen for further use in the discovery project have a specificity index better than 1 to 100.

Lead peptides are used to create and select libraries of small organic molecules that can be useful in screening assays to find bioactive substances useful as drugs to treat the condition or disease of interest for the project. In this step the amino-acid sequence

- information and other structural information about the lead peptide or peptides is used to extract information useful for finding and/or defining and synthesising bioactive organic molecules that can mimic the effect of the lead peptides on the normal spatial distribution pattern of the original fluorescent probe. Such compounds may be useful as drugs to treat the condition or disease of interest for the project. Peptide leads selected by the
- discovery project are used to design and assemble compound libraries based on the structural and chemical information inherent in the lead peptides using prior chemical knowledge and computational chemistry approaches so that the compounds have a structure that give them the ability to interact with or bind to the targeting sequence of IKKβ, PDE 4D X or mPDE5 thereafter testing the compound libraries at a concentration
- 35 of 10 or 100 micromolar of each compound in the primary screening assay.

When the libraries of compounds have been defined and are at hand it is time to initiate primary screening. In this procedure, cells containing the original fluorescent probe are contacted with the compounds. The compounds are all tested at just one or a few 5 concentrations, typically 10 and 100 micromolar, in a highly parallel fashion using a quantitative fluorescence redistribution assay. Compounds that cause a change in the quantitated response (the response scale defined by the range 0 (no change in redistribution) - 100%) of the assay by more than a predetermined value, typically between 10 and 100%, are considered to be "primary hits". The primary hits are then 10 further characterised: 1. for potency by establishing a dose-response relationship compared to the lead peptide(s) using the primary screening assay 2. for selectivity by establishing a dose-response relationship in the counterscreen or counterscreens. Primary hits that have low potency, typically when the half-maximal effect of the compound in the primary assay is achieved at a concentration of the compound between 15 10 and 100 micromolar, may not need testing in the counterscreen or counterscreens since the likelihood that they will be used beyond this step in the discovery project is small. Primary hits that have equal or lower potency in the primary screening assay compared to the counterscreen or counterscreens are regarded as non-selective and the

20 Primary hits that display some degree of selectivity, typically half maximal effect in the primary screening assay at a concentration 50% or less of the concentration that gives half maximal effect in the counterscreen or counterscreens are considered interesting as the basis for further chemical synthesis or construction of new libraries of compounds and will hereafter be referred to as "primary lead compounds".

likelihood that they will be used beyond this step in the discovery project is small.

- 25 Compounds that cause a change in the quantitated response, with a response scale from 0 to 100% based on the absence of a response and the maximal response observed with the peptide leads in the primary screening assay, of the assay by more than a predetermined value are selected and called "primary hits".

 In one embodiment the predetermined value is 10%.
- In another embodiment the predetermined value is 50%.
 In yet another embodiment the predetermined value is 70%.
 In one embodiment the primary hits are further characterised for potency and maximal effect by establishing a dose-response relationship and comparing that to the effects of the lead peptides using the primary screening assay and for selectivity by establishing a dose-response relationship in the counterscreen or counterscreens.

Primary hits may be deselected by the discovery project when they display a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of more than 10 micromolar or because they display a selectivity index less than 1 to 2.

Primary hits may be selected by the discovery project when they display a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of 10 micromolar or less or because they display a selectivity index higher than 1 to 2, the compounds hereafter also referred to as "primary lead compounds".

A Structure-Activity Relationship (SAR) is built by iterations of compound library 10 composition and screening to define drug candidate leads. This step is included to further improve the possibilities of finding bioactive compounds with desirable properties for treatment of the diseases or conditions of interest to the project. The primary lead compounds are here used to provide chemical structural information that can be used as the basis for composition or chemical synthesis of new, directed, compound libraries. By 15 systematic chemical modification of part of the structure of one or more primary lead compounds new libraries are assembled. These new libraries of compounds are also investigated using the primary screening assay and counterscreen or counterscreens. Preferably, dose-response relationships are recorded for each chemical modification of the primary lead compound and compared to the primary lead compound itself. Thereby 20 SAR is established. Among the new compounds, the ones that in this step has the best combination of potency and specificity are chosen either as the basis for a new round of compound library synthesis or composition or, as the final step of the SAR building process, as compounds that will be further for actual pharmacoloical effects in assay systems and animals that are relevant to the underlying physiological and 25 pathophysiological processes of interest to the project. The latter compounds will hereafter be referred to as "drug candidate leads". In one embodiment drug candidate leads have a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of less than 1 micromolar and a selectivity index higher

30 In one embodiment the drug candidate leads have a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of less than 1 micromolar and a selectivity index higher than 1 to 10.

than 1 to 2.

35 than 1 to 100.

In one embodiment the drug candidate leads have a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of less than 1 micromolar and a selectivity index higher

In one embodiment the drug candidate leads have a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of less than 0,1 micromolar and a selectivity index higher than 1 to 2.

In a preferred embodiment the drug candidate leads have a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of less than 0,1 micromolar and a selectivity index higher than 1 to 10.

In another preferred embodiment the drug candidate leads have a half-maximal potency at a dose corresponding to a concentration of less than 0,1 micromolar and a selectivity index higher than 1 to 100.

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Drug candidate leads may be further characterised in tissue based, cell based and biochemical assays to validate *in vitro* their efficacy and toxicity. There are many ways to test efficacy of a drug candidate lead. Preferably, the drug candidate lead is tested in assay systems with high relevance to the underlying physiological and

- pathophysiological processes involved in the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of the disease or condition of interest to the project. Likewise, the drug candidate leads are tested for toxic effects, preferably testing for genetic effects (influence on the integrity and arrangement of DNA), metabolic effects (influence on cellular metabolic processes) and cytotoxic effects (influence on cell integrity and organelle integrity). There is a high likelihood that drug candidate leads, that do not show appropriate efficacy or that display toxicity will not be used beyond this step in the discovery project because it is expected that such compounds are less suitable as actual drugs to be used in an animal. In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested *in vitro* for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying
- physiological and patophysiological processes involved in hypotension, inflammatory diseases, and for toxicity, preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals. In another embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested
- 30 in vitro for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and patophysiological processes involved in inflammatory airway diseases, and for toxicity, preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals.

In another embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested in vitro for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and patophysiological processes involved in inflammatory joint diseases, and for toxicity, preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter 5 the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals. In another embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested in vitro for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and patophysiological processes involved in inflammatory bowel diseases, 10 and for toxicity, preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals. In another embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested in vitro for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying 15 physiological and patophysiological processes involved in autoimmune diseases, and for toxicity, preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals.

- 20 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention I-kappaB degradation is inhibited by a novel mechanism namely by mis-targeting and/or modulation of the redistribution of specific IKKs. In contrast to previous interventions involving IKK the presented invention does not involve direct inhibition of the IKK enzymatic activity.
- 25 This completely novel mechanism for inhibition of the overall effect of the IKK complex provides clear advantages as it opens for a higher IKK isoform selectivity and a higher cell specificity of the therapy. In addition cell specific anchoring will allow design of compounds that only affect defined cell types.
- 30 In one aspect of the invention the substance is an organic compound, the organic compound being a weak acid in that it is a neutral molecule that can reversibly dissociate into an anion (a negatively charged molecule) and a proton (a hydrogen ion). In another aspect, the organic compound is a weak base in that it is a neutral molecule that can form a cation (a positively charged molecule) by combining with a proton. The functional groups of the targeting sequences include functional groups selected from the group

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consisting of: methyl-, isopropyl-, isobutyl-, hydroxyl-, thiol-, benzyl-, benzyloyl-, methylindolyl-, methylimidazolyl-, amine-, imine-, carboxyl- and acetamide-groups as parts of amino acids in the targeting sequences.

In another aspect of the invention the organic compound is a compound having one or more chemical domains capable of interacting with one or more functional groups of the targeting sequence of the native anchoring site of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase or I-kappaB kinase. In yet another aspect the organic compound is a compound having at least two chemical domains capable of interacting with at least two functional groups of the targeting sequence of the native anchoring site for the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase or I-kappaB kinase. In a further aspect the organic compound is a compound having at least three chemical domains capable of interacting with at least three functional groups of the targeting sequence of the native anchoring site for the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase or I-kappaB kinase.

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The organic compound is, in one aspect of the invention, a compound having at least two chemical domains capable of interacting with at least two functional groups of the targeting sequence of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase. In a specific embodiment, the organic compound is a compound having at least three chemical domains capable of interacting with at least three functional groups of the targeting sequence of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase.

In the next part of the discovery process the drug candidate leads are tested *in vivo* for toxic and unwanted effects in animals such as mice and rats. The drug candidate leads are also tested for efficacy in animals that have a disease or condition with high degree of relevance to the disease or condition of interest to the project. The drug candidate leads may also be tested for efficacy in animals which have been treated in a way that make them experience a disease or condition with high degree of relevance to the disease or condition of interest to the project. Drug candidate leads that display efficacy in one or more of such animal tests and that does not display any apparent toxicity at a dosage level, preferably 2 –10 times higher than the level that gives satisfactory efficacy are chosen to be the final drug candidates that should be considered for further animal testing and initial testing in humans. These compounds are hereafter referred to as "discovery project leads".

In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested in vitro for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in depression, and for toxicity, preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter the drug 5 candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals. In another embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested in vitro for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in jet-lag, and for toxicity, 10 preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals. In another embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested in vitro for efficacy, in assay systems with high degree of relevance to the underlying 15 physiological and patophysiological processes involved in erectile dysfunction, and for toxicity, preferably testing for genetic, metabolic and cytotoxic effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity are chosen to be the candidates that will enter testing in animals. In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for 20 efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in hypotension, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, after which the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side

effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter

further testing in animals and testing in humans.

In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in inflammatory diseases, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, after which the drug candidate

30 leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.

In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in hypertension,

and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, after which the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.

- 5 In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in jet-lag and circadian rhythm resetting, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, after which the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.
 In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in erectile dysfunction, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, after which the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.
- In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in inflammatory airway diseases, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.
 In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in inflammatory joint diseases, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.
- In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to

the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in inflammatory bowel diseases, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.

- In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in autoimmune diseases, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, whereafter the drug candidate
- 10 leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.
- In one embodiment drug candidate leads chosen by the discovery project are tested for efficacy, in healthy animals and animals with a condition with high degree of relevance to the underlying physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in depression, and for toxicity and unwanted side effects, whereafter the drug candidate leads that display the best efficacy and the least, or no, indications of toxicity or unwanted side effects are chosen to be the candidates, called discovery project leads, that will enter further testing in animals and testing in humans.

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The administration route of any of the compounds of the invention may be of any suitable route which leads to a concentration in the blood corresponding to a therapeutic concentration by the oral route, the parenteral route, the cutaneous route, the nasal route, the rectal route, the vaginal route and the ocular route. It should be clear to a person skilled in the art that the administration route is dependant on the compound in question, particularly, the choice of administration route depends on the physicochemical properties of the compound together with the age and weight of the patient and on the particular disease and the severity of the same.

The compounds of the invention may be contained in any appropriate amount in a pharmaceutical composition, and are generally contained in an amount of about 1-95% by weight of the total weight of the composition. The composition may be in form of, e.g., tablets, capsules, pills, powders, granulates, suspensions, emulsions, solutions, gels including hydrogels, pastes, ointments, creams, plasters, drenches, delivery devices, suppositories, enemas, injectables, implants, sprays, aerosols and in other suitable form.

35 The pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated according to conventional

pharmaceutical practice, see, e.g., "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences" and "Encyclopedia of Pharmaceutical Technology".

Pharmaceutical compositions according to the present invention may be formulated to release the active compound substantially immediately upon administration or at any

- substantially predetermined time or time period after administration. The latter type of compositions are generally known as controlled release formulations. Controlled release formulations may also be denoted "sustained release", "prolonged release", "programmed release", "time release", "rate-controlled" and/or "targeted release" formulations.
- 10 In the present context every pharmaceutical composition is an actual drug delivery system, since upon administration it presents the active drug substance to the body of the organism.

The compounds of the invention are preferably administered in an amount of about 0.130 mg per kg body weight per day, such as about 0.5-15 mg per kg body weight per day.
The compound in question may be administered orally in the form of tablets, cap-sules, elixirs or syrups, or rectally in the form of suppositories. Parenteral administration of the compounds of the invention, is suitably performed in the form of saline solutions of the compounds or with the compound incorporated into liposomes. In cases where the compound in itself is not sufficiently soluble to be dissolved, an acid addition salt of a basic compound can be used, or a solubilizer such as ethanol can be applied.

Oral administration. For compositions adapted for oral administration for systemic use, the dosage is normally 1 mg to 1 g per dose administered 1-4 times daily for 1 week, 12 months or even lifelong depending on the disease to be treated.

25 <u>Rectal administration.</u> For compositions adapted for rectal a somewhat higher amount of compound is usually preferred, i.e. from approximately 1 mg to 100 mg per kg body weight per day.

<u>Parenteral administration.</u> For parenteral administration a dose of about 0.1 mg to about 50 mg per kg body weight per day is convenient. For intravenous administration a dose

- of about 0.1 mg to about 20 mg per kg body weight per day. For intraarticular administration a dose of about 0.1 mg to about 20 mg per kg body weight per day is usually preferable. For parenteral administration in general, a solution in an aqueous medium of 0.5-2% or more of the active ingredients may be employed.
- <u>Cutaneous administration</u>. For topical administration on the skin a dose of about 1 mg to about 5 g administered 1-10 times daily is usually preferable.

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EXAMPLES

Example 1: Probes for detection of PDE4D dislocation.

These are specific PDE4D variants fused to a GFP. Currently 5 PDE4D splice variants are known: PDE4D1, PDE4D2, PDE4D3, PDE4D4 and PDE4D5. These all share C-

- 5 terminal sequences but differ in their N-termini.
 - Inspection of the scientific litterature indicates that the PDE4D1 and PDE4D2 subtypes are found only in the cytosolic fraction, whereas PDE4D3, PDE4D4 and PDE4D5 subtypes appear to associate with some form of cellular structure(s). Targetting sequences of PDE4Ds are presently believed to be located in their N-terminal domain(s).
- 10 In accordance with this, PDE4D1 and PDE4D2 have much shorter N-terminal domains than PDE4d3, PDE4D4 and PDE4D5. To best preserve the normal distribution of PDE4Ds, the fusions are made between the C-terminus of the PDE4D species and the N-terminal of the GFP.
- To construct PDE4D-GFP fusions, PDE4D sequences are amplified using PCR according to standard protocols with specific top-primers as listed below, and the common bottom-primer listed below. The PCR products are digested with restriction enzymes Hind3 and EcoR1, and ligated into pEGFP-N1 (Clontech, Palo Alto; GenBank Accession number U55762) digested with Hind3 and EcoR1. This produces PDE4D-EGFP fusions under the control of a CMV promoter (SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6 (PDE4D5-
- 20 EGFP); SEQ ID NOs: 3 and 4 (PDE4D4-EGFP); SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 2 (PDE4D3-EGFP)).
- Top primers all include specific sequences following the ATG, a Kozak sequence, and a cloning site (Hind3). The bottom primer includes the common C-terminal sequence minus the stop codon, an EcoR1 cloning site, and an extra nucleotide to preserve the reading frame in EGFP-N1.

Sequences of top-primers:

30

5'-GTAAGCTTCGAACATGATGCACGTGAATAATTTTCCC-3'; specific for PDE4D3A and PDE4D3B (GenBank Acc. nos. L20970 & U50159).

5'-GTAAGCTTCGAACATGGAGGCAGGGGCAGCAGC-3'; specific for PDE4D4A (GenBank Acc. no. L20969).

5'-GTAAGCTTCGAACATGGCTCAGCAGACAAGCCCG-3'; specific for PDE4D5A (GenBank Acc. no. AF012073).

Sequence of common bottom-primer:

5 5'-GTGAATTCCCGTCGTGTCAGGAGAAGCATCATCTATG-3'.

The resulting plasmids are transfected into a suitable cell line, e.g. MVLEC. The subcellular distribution of the probes is examined carefully by fluorescence microscopy, both under resting conditions, and upon elevation of cAMP, e.g. by activation of adenylate cyclase with forskolin, which may or may not have an effect on the normal distribution.

Example 2: Probes for detection of PDE5 dislocation:

These are specific PDE5 variants fused to a GFP. Currently only one main human variant is known (GenBank Acc.nos. AJ004865 and D89094).

- 15 Inspection of the scientific litterature indicates that the catalytic domain is contained in the C-terminal part of the protein, so potential targeting sequences of PDE5 may be located in the N-terminal part. To best preserve the normal distribution of PDE5, the first fusion is made between the C-terminus of the PDE5 species and the N-terminal of the GFP.
- 20 To construct the PDE5-GFP fusions, PDE5 sequences are amplified using PCR according to standard protocols with the specific primers listed below. The PCR product is digested with restriction enzymes EcoR1 and Acc65I, and ligated into pEGFP-N1 (Clontech, Palo Alto; GenBank Accession number U55762) digested with EcoR1 and Acc65I. This produces a PDE5-EGFP fusion under the control of a CMV promoter (SEQ
 - The top primer includes specific sequences following the ATG, a Kozak sequence, and a cloning site (EcoR1). The bottom primer includes specific C-terminal sequences minus the stop codon, an Acc65I cloning site, and two extra nucleotides to preserve the reading frame in EGFP-N1.

30

PDE5-top:

25 ID NOs: 7 and 8).

5'-GTGAATTCAACCATGGAGCGGGCC-3'

PDE5-bottom:

35 5'-GTGGTACCCAGTTCCGCTTGGCC

The resulting plasmids are transfected into a suitable cell line, e.g. MVLEC. The subcellular distribution of the probes is examined carefully by fluorescence microscopy, both under resting conditions, and upon elevation of cGMP, e.g. by activation of cyclase with NO or nitroprusside, which may or may not have an effect on the normal distribution.

EXAMPLE 3: Probes for detection of IKK redistribution.

Modulation of IKKβ redistribution by mis-targeting provoke an inhibition of cytokine-induced NF-kappaB activation. In the present example it is shown that specific mistageting of IKKβ inhibits cytokine-induced NF-kappaB activation. Dislocation of endogenous IKKβ from its anchoring sites is achieved by expression of a C-terminal part of IKKβ (PS473). The PS473 probe, which is a GFP fusion, allows a simultaneous monitoring of its localisation and redistribution.

Expression of the PS473 probe has a clear inhibitory activity on cytokine-induced
activation of NF-kappaB. For the first time we hereby show that dislocating IKKβ, without directly affecting its kinase activity, effectively hampers the functional activity of NF-kappaB. This causal relationship between mis-targeting of IKKβ and a lacking NF-kappaB activity is studied in two different systems: a) Real-time measurement of NF-kappaB translocation from the cytoplasm to the nucleus, and b) measurement of NF-kappaB induced transcriptional activity.

These are specific IKK subunit variants fused to a GFP. As examples, the following three subunits have been chosen: IKK α (GenBank Acc.no. AF009225), IKK β (GenBank Acc. No. AF031416), IKK γ (GenBank Acc. No. AF074382) and NIK (GenBank Acc. No.

25 NM003954).

Inspection of the scientific literature indicates that IKK β dissociates transiently from the IKAP complex during activation, and so becomes the first choice for a probe to detect redistribution.

To construct the IKKβ-GFP fusion, IKKβ sequences are amplified using PCR according to standard protocols with the specific primers listed below. The PCR product is digested with restriction enzymes Hind3 and Acc65I, and ligated into pEGFP-N1 (Clontech, Palo Alto; GenBank Accession number U55762) digested with Hind3 and Acc65I. This produces an IKKβ-EGFP fusion under the control of a CMV promoter (SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 10).

The top primer includes specific sequences following the ATG and a cloning site (Hind3). The bottom primer includes specific C-terminal sequences minus the stop codon, an Acc65I cloning site, and two extra nucleotides to preserve the reading frame in EGFP-N1.

5

IKKβ-top:

5'-GTAAGCTTACATGAGCTGGTCACCTTCCCTG-3'

IKKβ-bottom:

10 5'-GTGGTACCCATGAGGCCTGCTCCAG-3'

The resulting plasmids are transfected into a suitable cell line. The subcellular distribution of the probes is examined carefully by fluorescence microscopy, both under resting conditions, and upon activation, e.g. with $\mathsf{TNF}\alpha$.

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Probes for detection of activation of the NFkappaB signal transduction pathway.

Plasmid PS377 contains an NFkappaBp65-EGFP fusion. The GenBank accession number of the p65 subunit of NFkappaB is M62399. It is constructed by performing PCR on human cDNA (from Clontech) with specific primers p65-top and p65-bottom. The resulting ca. 1.7 kb PCR product is cut with restriction enzymes Xho1 and Hind3 and cloned into pEGFP-N1 (Clontech) cut with Xho1 and Hind3. This produces an NFkappaB-EGFP fusion (SEQ ID NOs: 11 and 12) under the control of the CMV promoter.

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p65-top: 5'-TTTTACTCGAGATGGACGAACTGTTCCCCCTCA-3' p65-bottom: 5'-TTTTGAAGCTTGGAGCTGATCTGACTCAGCAGC-3'

Construction of a reporter gene assay for monitoring NFkappaB-induced transcriptional activation:

Plasmid PS397 contains a selectable NFkappaB reporter construct. It is constructed through ligation of two BamH1-Not1 fragments: A 2.4 kb fragment from pNFkappaB-Luc (from Clontech,), which contains a luciferase gene and NFkappaB response elements, and a 2.8 kb BamH1-Not1 fragment from pZeoSV (from Invitrogen), which contains

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essential plasmid elements and a zeocin selective marker for use in E.coli and mammalian cells.

Construction of probes for monitoring IKKβ localisation, mis-targeting and redistribution in live cells:

Plasmid PS410 contains an EGFP-IKKβ fusion. The GenBank accession number of the beta subunit of IkappaB kinase is AF031416. It is constructed by performing PCR on human cDNA (from Clontech) with specific primers IKKβ-top and IKKβ-stop. The resulting 2.2 kb PCR product is cut with restriction enzymes Hind3 and Acc65I and cloned into pEGFP-C1 (Clontech) cut with Hind3 and Acc65I. This produces an EGFP-IKKβ fusion (SEQ ID NOs: 13 and 14) under the control of the CMV promoter.

IKKβ-top: 5'-GTAAGCTTACATGAGCTGGTCACCTTCCCTG-3' IKKβ-stop: 5'-GTGGTACCTCATGAGGCCTGCTCCAG-3'

Plasmid PS472 contains a full length IKKβ under the control of the CMV promoter. It is constructed by cutting PS410 with restriction enzymes Nhe1 and Hind3, which flank EGFP. This excises EGFP sequences from the plasmid, while placing IKKβ immediately downstream of the CMV promoter. The protruding ends generated by the enzymes are then made blunt using Klenow polymerase according to standard protocol, and the plasmid is recircularized with DNA ligase.

PS473 contains EGFP fused to the C-terminal part of IKKβ. This part of IKKβ contains a putative leucine zipper region, but is without catalytic activity as this function resides in the N-terminal part of IKKβ. It is constructed by performing PCR on PS410 with primers IKKβ-LZ-top and IKKβ-stop. IKKβ-LZ-top contains a Hind3 site and specific IKKβ sequence from amino acid position 455 in the predicted amino acid sequence. This is almost immediately upstream of the first leucine of the predicted leucine zipper, which is at position 458. The resulting 0.9 kb PCR product is cut with restriction enzymes Hind3 and Acc65I and cloned into pEGFP-C1 (Clontech) cut with Hind3 and Acc65I. This produces an EGFP-IKKβ-LZdomain fusion (SEQ ID NOs: 15 and 16) under the control of the CMV promoter.

IKKβ-LZ-top: 5'-GTAAGCTTCCACCATGATGAATCTCCTCCGAAAC-3'

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Plasmid PS474 contains the IKKβ C-terminal part under the control of the CMV promoter. It is constructed by cutting PS473 with restriction enzymes Age1 and BspE1, which flank EGFP. This excises EGFP sequences from the plasmid, while placing IKKβ sequences immediately downstream of the CMV promoter. As Age1 and BspE1 produce compatible ends, the plasmid is simply recircularized with DNA ligase. The ATG methionine codon at position 455 in the predicted amino acid sequence of IKKβ, may serve as initiation codon in this construct.

Transfections and cell culture conditions.

- 10 Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO), Human epithelial kidney cells (HEK293) and Human epithelial adenocarcinoma cells (HeLa), were transfected with above mentioned plasmids using FuGENE transfection reagent (Boehringer Mannheim). Stable transfectants were selected using 1000 μg Zeocin/ml (Invitrogen) or 500 μg G418/ml (Neo marker) in the growth medium [DMEM (HEK293 and HeLa) or HAM F12 (CHO)
- with 1000 mg glucose/l, 10 % fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 μg penicillin-streptomycin mixture ml⁻¹, 2 mM L-glutamine purchased from Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg, MD, USA).
- For fluorescence microscopy, cells were allowed to adhere to Lab-Tek chambered coverglasses (Nalge Nunc Int., Naperville, IL, USA) for at least 24 hours and cultured to about 80% confluence. Prior to experiments, the cells were cultured over night without selection pressure in DMEM or HAM F-12 medium with glutamax (Life Technologies), 100 µg penicillin-streptomycin mixture ml⁻¹ and 0.3 % FBS. This medium has low autofluorescence enabling fluorescence microscopy of cells straight from the incubator.
- Microscope imaging of localisation and redistribution in live cells:
 Image aquisition of live cells were gathered using a Zeiss Axiovert 135M
 fluorescence microscope fitted with a Fluar 40X, NA: 1.3 oil immersion objective and coupled to a Photometrics CH250 charged coupled device (CCD) camera. The cells were illuminated with a 100 W HBO arc lamp. For imaging of GFP-based probes we
 inserted in the light path was a 470±20 nm excitation filter, a 510 nm dichroic mirror and a 515±15 nm emission filter. For imaging of the Hoechst 33342 (H1399, Molecular Probes) nuclear stain we used a 380±20 nm excitation filter, a 410 nm dichroic mirror and a 555±15 nm emission filter

The cells were kept and monitored to be at 37°C with a custom built stage heater.

Quantification of NF-kappaB redistribution:

Cells are stained with the vital nuclear stain, Hoechst.

A sequence of images with a time separation of 10 sec is acquired. At each time point the sequence consists of one NF-kappaB-GFP image and one image of the Hoechst stained nucleus.

The image sequence is corrected for dark current by performing a pixel-by-pixel subtraction of a dark image (an image taken under the same conditions as the actual image, except the camera shutter is not allowed to open).

The image sequence is corrected for non-uniformity of the illumination by performing a pixel-by-pixel ratio with a flat field correction image (an image taken under the same conditions as the actual image of a uniformly fluorescent specimen).

At each time point the accumulated intensity of the NFkappaB probe in the nucleus is ratioed over the total cytoplasmic intensity. The Hoechst image is used to mask the nucleus.

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Results:

The full length IKKβ probe (PS410) show an even distribution throughout the cytoplasm when expressed in CHO (Fig. 2) and HEK293 cells. PS473 show a similar localisation after its expression (Fig. 3A). Interestingly however the probe has sensitised the cells to stimuli that induce apoptosis. It is thus observed that the PS473 expressing cells upon 2 hrs of serum starvation undergo apoptosis, in comparison non-tranfected cells or PS410 expressing cells did show no sign on apoptosis after similar treatment. The induction of apoptosis could be visualised as a change in the localisation of the PS473 probe from an even distribution throughout the cytoplasm to a discrete punctate localisation (Fig. 3B).

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The PS473 provoked mis-tageting of IKK β had pronounced functional consequences. We thus observed a prominent inhibition of IL-1 induced NFkappaB redistribution (Fig.

 Furthermore we observed an inhibition of IL-1 and TNFα induced activation of the NFkappaB regulated transcription as monitored with the above described luciferase
 reporter construct (PS397) (Fig. 5).

Figur legends

Figure 1

CHO cells expressing PS377 for monitoring NFkappaB redistribution in live cells. A) Before stimulation and B) 10 minutes after stimulation with IL-1 (10 ng/ml).

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Figure 2

The full length IKK β probe (PS410) show an even distribution throughout the cytoplasm when expressed in CHO cells.

10 Figure 3

PS473 expressed in CHO cells. (A) show an even distribution throughout the cytoplasm.

(B) The distributaion change when cells undergo appoptosis as observed after two hours of serum starvation.

15 Figure 4

Expression of PS473 inhibits IL-1 (0.5 ng/ml) induced redistribution of NF-kappaB in CHO cells.

Figure 5

20 Expression of PS473 inhibits IL-1 (0.5 ng/ml) and TNF- α (0.5 ng/ml) induced NF-kappaB regulated transcription in HEK293 cells.

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Claims

- Use of a substance, capable of modulating the specific effectiveness of a cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase or I-kappaB kinases through modulating the spatial
 distribution or change in spatial distribution of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases or I-kappaB kinases within cells of an animal, for the preparation of a medicament for the prevention or treatment in an animal of an adverse condition which may be reduced or abolished by modulating the activity of one or more cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases having the ability to cleave cyclic AMP or cyclic GMP or by
 modulating the activity of one or more I-kappaB.
 - 2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the I-kappaB kinase is selected from the group consisting of I-kappaB kinase α , I-kappaB kinase β , I-kappaB kinase γ and NIK.
- 15 3. Use according to claim 2, wherein the I-kappaB kinase is I-kappaB kinase β .
 - 4. Use according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase is selected from the group consisting of PDE3, PDE4, PDE7 and PDE8.
- 20 5. Use according to claim 4, wherein the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase is PDE4.
 - 6. Use according to claim 5, wherein the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase is a splice variant of PDE4, selected from the group consisting of PDE4A, PDE4B, PDE4C and PDE4D.

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- 7. Use according to claim 6, wherein the PDE4 species is a splice variant of PDE4D.
- 8. Use according to claim 7, wherein the splice variant is PDE4D1, PDE4D2, PDE4D3, PDE4D4, PDE4D5 and PDE4A1.

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- 9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the splice variant is PDE4D3, PDE4D4 or PDE4D5.
- 10. Use according to claim 6, wherein the PDE4 splice variant is PDE4A1.

- 11. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the adverse condition is an inflammatory diseases such as chronic inflammation.
- 12. Use according to any of claims 1-10, wherein the adverse condition is chronic
 inflammatory airway diseases such as asthma and chronic bronchial hyperreactivity of non-asthma etiology.
 - 13. Use according to any of claims 1-10, wherein the adverse condition is chronic inflammatory joint diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and pelvospondylitis.
- 14. Use according to any of claims 1-10, wherein the adverse condition is chronic inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.
- 15. Use according to any of claims 1-10, wherein the adverse condition is autoimmune
 diseases with chronic inflammation such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus type I, systemic lupus erythematosus, myasthenia gravis, Hashimoto's thyreoiditis, Graves' disease and immune thrombocytopenic purpura.
- 16. Use according to any of claims 1-10, wherein the adverse condition involves adisregulation of the immune system such as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and septic shock.
 - 17. Use according to claim 10, wherein the adverse condition is depression.
- 25 18. Use according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase is selected from the group consisting of PDE1, PDE2, PDE5, PDE6, PDE9 and PDE10.
 - 19. Use according to claim 18, wherein the nucleotide phosphodiesterase is a splice variant of PDE5.
 - 20. Use according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the adverse condition is hypo- or hypertension, erectile dysfunction, circadian rhythm resetting or jet-lag.
 - 21. Use according to any of the preceding claims wherein the animal is a mammal.

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- 22. Use according to claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human being.
- 23. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the substance is an organic compound having a molecular weight of around 3000 Da
- 5
 24. Use according to any of claims 1-22, wherein the substance is an organic compound having a molecular weight of at the most 1200 Da.
- 25. Use according to claim 24, wherein the substance is an organic compound having a molecular weight of at the most 900 Da.
 - 26. Use according to claim 25, wherein the substance is an organic compound having a molecular weight of at the most 600 Da.
- 15 27. Use according to claim 26, wherein the substance is an organic compound having a molecular weight of at the most 300 Da.
 - 28. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the substance is a peptide.
- 20 29. Use according to any of claim 1-27, wherein the substance is a carbon-containing non-peptide.
- 30. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the organic compound is a compound having one or more chemical domains capable of interacting with one or
 25 more functional groups of the targeting sequence of the native anchoring site of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase or I-kappaB kinase.
- 31. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the substance interacts with the targeting sequence or part thereof in a manner that dislocates, disrupts targeting, or interferes with redistribution of the fluorescent probe as measured in quantitative fluorescence redistribution assay.
- 32. A method for extracting quantitative information relating to an influence on a cellular response, the method comprising recording variation, caused by the influence on a
 35 mechanically intact living cell or mechanically intact living cells, in spatially distributed

light emitted from a luminophore, the luminophore being part of a fluorescent probe further comprising at least a part of a cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase or I-kappaB kinase, the fluorescent probe being present in the cell or cells and being capable of being redistributed in a manner which is related with the degree of the influence, and/or of being modulated by a component which is capable of being redistributed in a manner which is related to the degree of the influence, the association resulting in a modulation of the luminescence characteristics of the luminophore, and processing the recorded variation in the spatially distributed light to provide quantitative information correlating the spatial distribution to the degree of the influence on the cellular response.

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- 33. A screening assay for carrying out the method of claim 32.
- 34. A screening assay according to claim 32 or 33 wherein the fluorescent probe is modified in a systematic way, still keeping the GFP coding sequence intact, so that the new fluorescent probes are fusion polypeptides where parts of the suspected targeting sequences are altered.
 - 35. A screening assay according to claim 34, wherein the modification of the suspected targeting sequence is a deletion.

- 36. A screening assay according to any of claims 33-35, wherein the spatial distribution of the fluorescent probe is compared to the spatial distribution of the unmodified fluorescent probe to deduce the targeting sequence.
- 25 37. A screening assay according to any of claims 33-36, wherein the quantitative fluorescence redistribution assay is a primary screening assay used in a discovery project
- 38. A nucleotide sequence encoding the protein corresponding to amino acids 331-552
 30 of SEQ ID NO: 16 or any sub-sequence thereof of more than 25 contiguous amino acids, able to dislocate IKKβ when expressed in CHO cells under the control of the CMV promoter.
- 39. A nucleotide sequence according to claim 38, wherein the sub-sequence is the predicted leucine zipper contained in amino acids 331-360 of SEQ ID NO: 16.

- 40. A screening assay according to any of claims 33-37, wherein the fluorescent probe comprises a nucleotide sequence according to claim 38 or 39.
- 5 41. A method according to claim 32 wherein the fluorescent probe is able to dislocate IKKβ when expressed in CHO cells under the control of the CMV promoter.
- 42. A method for preventing or treating, in an animal in need thereof, an adverse condition which may be reduced or abolished by modulating the activity of one or more cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases having the ability to cleave cyclic AMP, or cyclic AMP, or by modulating the activity of one or more I-kappaB kinases, the method comprising modulating the specific effectiveness of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase or I-kappaB kinase by modulating the spatial distribution within cells of the animal.

Figures

Fig. 1A

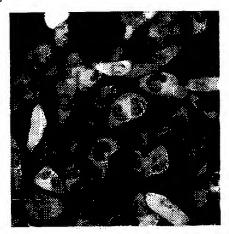


Fig. 1B

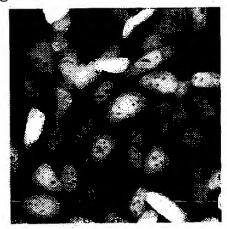


Fig. 2

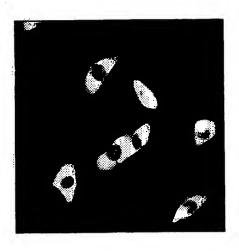
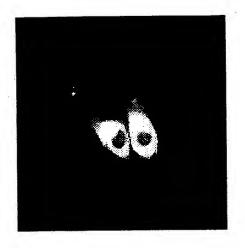


Fig. 3A





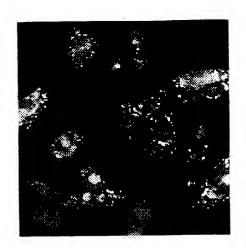


Fig. 4

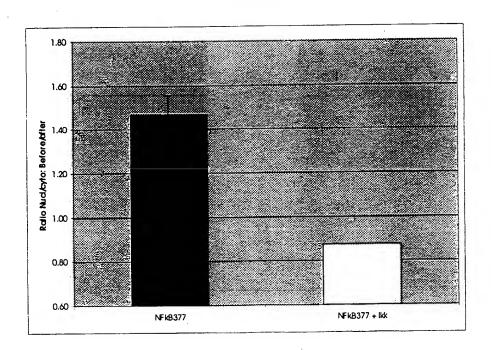
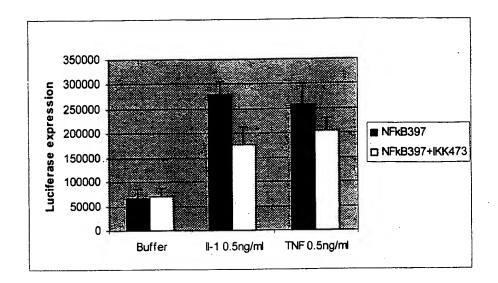


Fig. 5



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Thr	Thr	Gly 675		Leu	Gln	Ser	Thr 680		Pro	Arg	Ala	Arg 685		Pro	Pro

Val Ala Thr Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val . 700 695 Pro Ile Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser 715 710 Val Ser Gly Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu 725 730 Lys Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu 740 745 Val Thr Thr Leu Thr Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp 760 765 His Met Lys Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr 775 780 Val Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr 795 790 Arg Ala Glu Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu 810 805 Leu Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys 820 825 Leu Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys 840 Gln Lys Asn Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu 860 . 855 Asp Gly Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile 870 875 Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln 890 Ser Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu 905 910 Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys 930 <210> 3 <211> 3201 <212> DNA <213> Aequorea victoria and human <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)...(3201) <400> 3 48 atg gag gca gag ggc agc agc gcg ccg gcc cgg gcg ggc agc gga gag Met Glu Ala Glu Gly Ser Ser Ala Pro Ala Arg Ala Gly Ser Gly Glu 96 ggc agc gac agc gcc ggc ggg gcc acg ctc aaa gcc ccc aag cat ctc Gly Ser Asp Ser Ala Gly Gly Ala Thr Leu Lys Ala Pro Lys His Leu 20 tgg agg cac gag cag cac cac cag tac ccg ctc cgg cag ccc cag ttc 144 Trp Arg His Glu Gln His His Gln Tyr Pro Leu Arg Gln Pro Gln Phe 35 40 cgc ctc ctg cat ccc cat cac ctg ccc ccg ccg cca ccc tcg Arg Leu Leu His Pro His His Leu Pro Pro Pro Pro Pro Pro Ser 50 55

ccc Pro 65	cag Gln	ccc Pro	cag Gln	ccc Pro	cag Gln 70	tgt Cys	ccg Pro	cta Leu	cag Gln	ccg Pro 75	ccg Pro	ccg Pro	ccg Pro	ccc Pro	pro 80	240
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tcg Ser	agc Ser	ggg ggg	gcc Ala 100	acc Thr	ggc Gly	cgc Arg	gtc Val	cgg Arg 105	cat His	cgc Arg	ggc Gly	tac Tyr	tcg Ser 110	gac Asp	acc Thr	336
gag Glu	cgc Arg	tac Tyr 115	ctg Leu	tac Tyr	tgt Cys	cgc Arg	gcc Ala 120	atg Met	gac Asp	cgc Arg	acc Thr	tcc Ser 125	tac Tyr	gcg Ala	gtg Val	384
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tcc Ser 145	Ser	ttc Phe	cag Gln	gga Gly	ctc Leu 150	agg Arg	cgt Arg	ttt Phe	gat Asp	gtg Val 155	gac Asp	aat Asn	ggc Gly	aca Thr	tct Ser 160	480
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tat Tyr	cga Arg	tcc Ser 195	gac Asp	agc Ser	gat Asp	tat Tyr	gac Asp 200	ctc Leu	tct Ser	cca Pro	aag Lys	tct Ser 205	atg Met	tcc Ser	cgg Arg	624
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gaa Glu	atg Met	agt Ser	cgg Arg	tct Ser 325	gga Gly	aat Asn	caa Gln	gtg Val	tca Ser 330	gag Glu	ttt Phe	ata Ile	tca Ser	aac Asn 335	aca Thr	1008
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tta Leu	tta Leu	aaa Lys 435	aca Thr	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	att Ile	cca Pro 440	gta Val	gat Asp	act Thr	tta Leu	att Ile 445	aca Thr	tat Tyr	ctt Leu	1344
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			Asn										aat Asn			1584
													ttg Leu			1632

	530					535					540					
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Cys	Thr 770	Gln	Asp	Ser	Glu	Ser 775	Thr	Glu	Ile	Pro	Leu 780	Asp	Glu	Gln	Val	
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gt c Val	ata Ile	gat Asp	gat Asp	cgt Arg 805	tct Ser	cct Pro	gac Asp	acg Thr	acg Thr 810	gga Gly	att Ile	ctg Leu	cag Gln	tcg Ser 815	acg Thr	2448
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gag Glu	gag Glu	ctg Leu 835	ttc Phe	acc Thr	ggg	gtg Val	gtg Val 840	ccc Pro	atc Ile	ctg Leu	gtc Val	gag Glu 845	ctg Leu	gac Asp	ggc Gly	2544
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Pro 65	50 Gln	Pro	Gln	Pro	Gln 70	55 Cys	Pro	Leu	Gln	Pro 75		Pro	Pro	Pro	Pro 80	
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Ser	Ser	Gly	Ala 100	85 Thr	Gly	Arg	Val	Arg 105		Arg	Gly	Tyr	Ser 110		Thr	
Glu	Arg	Tyr 115		Tyr	Cys	Arg	Ala 120		Asp	Arg	Thr	Ser 125		Ala	Val	
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Tyr	Arg		180 Asp	Ser	Asp	Tyr			Ser	Pro	Lys			Ser	Arg	
Asn	Ser 210	195 Ser	Ile	Ala	Ser	Asp 215	200 Ile		Gly	Asp	Asp 220	205 Leu	Ile	Val	Thr	
	Phe	Ala	Gln	Val			Ser	Leu	Arg		Val	Arg	Asn	Asn		
225 Ala	Ala	Leu	Thr		230 Leu	Gln	Asp	Arg				Lys	Arg		240 Pro	
Met	Cys	Asn	Gln	245 Pro	Ser	Ile	Asn		250 Ala		Ile	Thr			Ala	
Tyr	Gln	Lys 275		Ala	Ser	Glu	Thr 280		Glu	Glu	Leu	Asp 285			Leu	

A	sp	Gln 290	Leu	Glu	Thr	Leu	Gln 295	Thr	Arg	His	Ser	Val 300	Ser	Glu	Met	Ala
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				420			Ile		425					430		
			435				Ile	440					445			
		450					Tyr 455					460				
4	65					470	Val				475					480
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				500			Asp		505					510		
			515				Ser	520					525			
		530					His 535 Phe					540				
5	45					550	Ile	•			555					560
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					645					650					655	Val
				660					665					670		
			675	_				680					685			Asp
		690					695					700				Asn
7	705					710					715					Pro 720
					725					730					735	Phe Ser
				740					745					750		Leu
	ı T A	ser	GTU	۸qŢ	GIU	GIU	usb	7117	2-1	Cys	261	ASD	201	-ys	* 117	بات ت

		755				_	760			_	•	765	a 1	O1	**- 1	
	770					775					Leu 780					
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Ile	Thr	Leu	Gly 106		Asp	Glu	Leu	Tyr 106								
		210>														
			300								,					
			DNA		a vi	ctor	ia a	nd h	uman							
	`	213-	neg.	4010												
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		400>														
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				Pro							Āsp					
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Leu	Arg	Glu 35	Asn	Leu	Leu	Gln	His 40	Glu	Lys	Ser	Lys	Thr 45	Ala	Arg	Lys		
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tca Ser 465	gtc Val	tta Leu	gag Glu	aac Asn	cat His 470	His	ttg Leu	gct Ala	gtg Val	ggc Gly 475	Phe	aaa Lys	ttg Leu	ctt Leu	cag Gln 480	1440
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Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly 980 985 990

3009

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385	Thr				390		His			395					400
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				645			Ile		650					655	
			660				Gln	665					670		
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705					710					715					Val 720
				725					730	1				735	Cys
			740					745					750		Thr
		755	•				760					765			Gly
	770)				775	•				780	•			Gly
785	i				790					795					Asp 800
				805	.				810)				815	
Leu	Pro	Val	Pro 820		Pro	Thi	Leu	Val 825		Thr	Let	ıThr	830		Val

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Lys 865		Asp	Gly	Asn	Tyr 870		Thr	Arg	Ala	Glu 875	Val	Lys	Phe	Glu	Gly 880	
Asp	Thr	Leu	Val	Asn 885		Ile	Glu	Leu	Lys 890		Ile	Asp	Phe	Lys 895		
Asp	Gly	Asn	Ile 900		Gly	His	Lys	Leu 905	Glu	Tyr	Asn	Tyr	Asn 910		His	
Asn	Val	Tyr 915		Met	Ala	Asp	Lys 920		Lys	Asn	Gly	Ile 925	Lys	Val	Asn	
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His 945		Gln	Gln	Asn	Thr 950	Pro	Ile	Gly	Asp	Gly 955	Pro	Val	Leu	Leu	Pro 960	
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	0111	0211	20	-,-	0					GTII	TO D					
+~~								25	-	GIII	qan	501	30			
Trp	ctg Leu	gac Asp	gat Asp	cac His	tgg Trp	gac Asp	ttt Phe	acc	ttc	tca	tac	ttt	30 gtt	aga	aaa Lys	144
Trp	ctg Leu	gac Asp 35	gat Asp	cac His	tgg Trp	gac Asp	ttt Phe 40	acc		tca	tac	ttt	30 gtt	aga	aaa Lys	144
Trp	Leu	Asp 35 aga	Asp gaa	His atg	Trp	Asp	Phe 40 gca	acc Thr	ttc Phe ttt	tca Ser	tac Tyr gag	ttt Phe 45 aga	30 gtt Val gtt	aga Arg	Lys	144
Trp	Leu	Asp 35 aga Arg	Asp gaa	His atg	Trp	Asp	Phe 40 gca	acc Thr	ttc Phe	tca Ser	tac Tyr gag	ttt Phe 45 aga	30 gtt Val gtt	aga Arg	Lys	
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Ala	Ser		Ile 340	Phe	Glu	Glu	Gln	Gln 345	Ser	Leu	Glu	Val	Ile 350	Leu	Lys	
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gag Glu	gtt Val	ctt Leu 595	tgc Cys	aga Arg	tgg Trp	att Ile	tta Leu 600	agt Ser	gtt Val	aag Lys	aag Lys	aat Asn 605	tat Tyr	cgg Arg	aag Lys	18	24
aat Asn	gtt Val 610	gcc Ala	tat Tyr	cat His	aat Asn	tgg Trp 615	aga Arg	cat His	gcc Ala	ttt Phe	aat Asn 620	aca Thr	gct Ala	cag Gln	tgc Cys	18	72
atg Met 625	ttt Phe	gct Ala	gct Ala	cta Leu	aaa Lys 630	gca Ala	ggc Gly	aaa Lys	att Ile	cag Gln 635	aac Asn	aag Lys	ctg Leu	act Thr	gac Asp 640	19	20
ctg Leu	gag Glu	ata Ile	ctt Leu	gca Ala 645	ttg Leu	ctg Leu	att Ile	gct Ala	gca Ala 650	cta Leu	agc Ser	cac His	gat Asp	ttg Leu 655	gat Asp	19	68
cac His	cgt Arg	ggt Gly	gtg Val 660	aat Asn	aac Asn	tct Ser	tac Tyr	ata Ile 665	cag Gln	cga Arg	agt Ser	gaa Glu	cat His 670	cca Pro	ctt Leu	20	16
gcc Ala	cag Gln	ctt Leu 675	tac Tyr	tgc Cys	cat His	tca Ser	atc Ile 680	atg Met	gaa Glu	cac His	cat His	cat His 685	ttt Phe	gac Asp	cag Gln	20	64
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tcc Ser 705	att Ile	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	tat Tyr	aag Lys 710	acc Thr	acg Thr	ttg Leu	aaa Lys	ata Ile 715	Ile	aag Lys	caa Gln	gct Ala	att Ile 720	21	L60
tta Leu	gct Ala	aca Thr	gac Asp	cta Leu 725	gca Ala	ctg Leu	tac Tyr	att	aag Lys 730	agg Arg	cga Arg	gga Gly	gaa Glu	ttt Phe 735	ttt Phe	22	808
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gag Glu	ttg Leu	ttt Phe 755	Leu	gca Ala	atg Met	ctg Leu	atg Met 760	Thr	gct Ala	tgt Cys	gat Asp	ctt Leu 765	tct Ser	gca Ala	att Ile	23	304
aca Thr	aaa Lys 770	Pro	tgg Trp	cct Pro	att Ile	caa Gln 775	caa Gln	cgg Arg	ata Ile	gca Ala	gaa Glu 780	Leu	gta Val	gca Ala	act Thr	23	352
gaa Glu 785	Phe	ttt Phe	gat Asp	caa Gln	gga Gly 790	Asp	aga Arg	gag Glu	aga Arg	aaa Lys 795	Glu	ctc Leu	aac Asn	ata Ile	gaa Glu 800	24	400
ccc Pro	act Thr	gat Asp	cta Leu	atg Met 805	Asn	agg Arg	gag Glu	aag Lys	aaa Lys 810	Asn	aaa Lys	atc Ile	cca Pro	agt Ser 815	Met	24	448

caa Gln	gtt Val	ggg ggg	ttc Phe 820	ata Ile	gat Asp	gcc Ala	atc Ile	tgc Cys 825	ttg Leu	caa Gln	ctg Leu	tat Tyr	gag Glu 830	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	2496
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acc Thr	ggg ggg	gtg Val	gtg Val 900	ccc Pro	atc Ile	ctg Leu	gtc Val	gag Glu 905	ctg Leu	gac Asp	ggc Gly	gac Asp	gta Val 910	aac Asn	ggc Gly	2736
cac His	aag Lys	ttc Phe 915	agc Ser	gtg Val	tcc Ser	ggc Gly	gag Glu 920	ggc Gly	gag Glu	ggc Gly	gat Asp	gcc Ala 925	acc Thr	tac Tyr	ggc	2784
aag Lys	ctg Leu 930	acc Thr	ctg Leu	aag Lys	ttc Phe	atc Ile 935	tgc Cys	acc Thr	acc Thr	ggc Gly	aag Lys 940	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	gtg Val	ccc Pro	2832
tgg Trp 945	ccc Pro	acc Thr	ctc Leu	gtg Val	acc Thr 950	acc Thr	ctg Leu	acc Thr	tac Tyr	ggc Gly 955	gtg Val	cag Gln	tgc Cys	ttc Phe	agc Ser 960	2880
cgc Arg	tac Tyr	ccc Pro	gac Asp	cac His 965	atg Met	aag Lys	cag Gln	cac His	gac Asp 970	ttc Phe	ttc Phe	aag Lys	tcc Ser	gcc Ala 975	atg Met	2928
ccc Pro	gaa Glu	ggc Gly	tac Tyr 980	gtc Val	cag Gln	gag Glu	cgc Arg	acc Thr 985	Ile	ttc Phe	ttc Phe	aag Lys	gac Asp 990	Asp	ggc Gly	2976
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atg Met	gcc Ala	gac Asp	aag Lys	cag Gln	aag Lys	aac	ggc Gly	ato	aag	gtg Val	aac Asn	tto Phe	aag Lys	ato	cgc	3168

PCT/DK99/00567

WO 00/23091

cac aac atc gag gac ggc agc gtg cag ctc gcc gac cac tac cag cag His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln aac acc ccc atc ggc gac ggc ccc gtg ctg ctg ccc gac aac cac tac Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr ctg agc acc cag tee gee etg age aaa gae eec aac gag aag ege gat Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp cac atg gtc ctg ctg gag ttc gtg acc gcc gcc ggg atc act ctc ggc His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly atg gac gag ctg tac aag taa Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys * <210> 8 <211> 1126 <212> PRT <213> Aequorea victoria and human <400> 8 Met Glu Arg Ala Gly Pro Ser Phe Gly Gln Gln Arg Gln Gln Gln Pro Gln Gln Gln Lys Gln Gln Gln Arg Asp Gln Asp Ser Val Glu Ala Trp Leu Asp Asp His Trp Asp Phe Thr Phe Ser Tyr Phe Val Arg Lys Ala Thr Arg Glu Met Val Asn Ala Trp Phe Ala Glu Arg Val His Thr Ile Pro Val Cys Lys Glu Gly Ile Arg Gly His Thr Glu Ser Cys Ser Cys Pro Leu Gln Gln Ser Pro Arg Ala Asp Asn Ser Val Pro Gly Thr Pro Thr Arg Lys Ile Ser Ala Ser Glu Phe Asp Arg Pro Leu Arg Pro Ile Val Val Lys Asp Ser Glu Gly Thr Val Ser Phe Leu Ser Asp Ser Glu Lys Lys Glu Gln Met Pro Leu Thr Pro Pro Arg Phe Asp His Asp Glu Gly Asp Gln Cys Ser Arg Leu Leu Glu Leu Val Lys Asp Ile Ser Ser His Leu Asp Val Thr Ala Leu Cys His Lys Ile Phe Leu His Ile His Gly Leu Ile Ser Ala Asp Arg Tyr Ser Leu Phe Leu Val Cys Glu Asp Ser Ser Asn Asp Lys Phe Leu Ile Ser Arg Leu Phe Asp Val Ala Glu Gly Ser Thr Leu Glu Glu Val Ser Asn Asn Cys Ile Arg Leu Glu Trp Asn Lys Gly Ile Val Gly His Val Ala Ala Leu Gly Glu Pro Leu

Asn	Ile	Lys	Asp	Ala 245	Tyr	Glu	Asp	Pro	Arg 250	Phe	Asn	Ala	Glu	Val 255	Asp
			Gly 260	-				265					270		
		275	Glu				280					285			
	290		Gly			295					300				
305			Ala		310					315					320
			Leu	325					330					335	
			Ile 340					345					350		
		355	Ala				360					365			
•	370		Val			375					380				
385			Cys		390					395					400
			Ala	40.5					410					415	
			Glu 420					425					430		
		435	Thr				440					445			
	450		Leu			455					460				
465			Cys		470					475					480
			Phe	485					490					495	
			Gly 500					505					510		
	_	515	Met				520					525			
	530		Ala			535					540				
545			Val		550					555					560
			Phe Thr	565					570	•				575	
			580 Cys					585					590		
		595					600					605			
	610					615					620				
625			Ala Leu		630					635					640
			Val	645					650					655	
			660 Tyr					665					670		
		675					680					685			
	690		Glu			695					700				
				- 3 -	-, -										

705					710					715					720
	Ala	Thr	Asp	Leu 725		Leu	Tyr	Ile	Lys 730		Arg	Gly	Glu	Phe	
Glu	Leu	Ile	Arg 740		Asn	Gln	Phe	Asn 745		Glu	Asp	Pro	His 750		Lys
Glu	Leu	Phe	Leu	Ala	Met	Leu	Met 760		Ala	Cys	Asp	Leu 765	Ser	Ala	Ile
Thr	Lys 770	Pro	Trp	Pro	Ile	Gln 775	Gln	Arg	Ile	Ala	Glu 780	Leu	Val	Ala	Thr
Glu 785		Phe	Asp	Gln	Gly 790	Asp	Arg	Glu	Arg	Lys 795	Glu	Leu	Asn	Ile	Glu 800
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			Phe 820	•				825					830		
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	850		Lys			855					860				
865		_	Glu		870					875					880
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			Val 900					905					910		
		915	Ser				920			`		925			
_	930		Leu			935					940				
945			Leu		950					955					960
			Asp	965					970					975	
			Tyr 980					985					990		
		995	Thr				100)				100	5		
	101	C	Glu			101	5				102)			
102	5				103	0				103	5				Ile 1040
				104	5				105	0				105	
			106)	_			106	5				107	0	Gln
		107					108	0				108	5		
	1090	C	Gln			109	5				110	C			
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nec	Азр	GIU	Leu	112											

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cac His	aat Asn	cag Glņ 35	gaa Glu	aca Thr	ggt Gly	gag Glu	cag Gln 40	att Ile	gcc Ala	atc Ile	aag Lys	cag Gln 45	tgc Cys	cgg Arg	cag Gln		144
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atg Met 65	aga Arg	agg Arg	ctg Leu	acc Thr	cac His 70	ccc Pro	aat Asn	gtg Val	gtg Val	gct Ala 75	gcc Ala	cga Arg	gat Asp	gtc Val	cct Pro 80		240
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aac Asn	tgc Cys	tgt Cys 115	ggt Gly	ctg Leu	cgg Arg	gaa Glu	ggt Gly 120	gcc Ala	atc Ile	ctc Leu	acc Thr	ttg Leu 125	ctg Leu	agt Ser	gac Asp		384
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gat Asp 145	cta Leu	aag Lys	cca Pro	gaa Glu	aac Asn 150	atc Ile	gtc Val	ctg Leu	cag Gln	caa Gln 155	gga Gly	gaa Glu	cag Gln	agg Arg	tta Leu 160		480
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cta Leu	ctg Leu	gag Glu 195	cag Gln	cag Gln	aag Lys	tac Tyr	aca Thr 200	gtg Val	acc Thr	gtc Val	gac Asp	tac Tyr 205	tgg Trp	agc Ser	ttc Phe		624
ggc Gly	acc Thr	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	ttt Phe	gag Glu	tgc Cys	atc Ile	acg Thr	ggc Gly	ttc Phe	cgg Arg	ccc Pro	ttc Phe	ctc Leu	ccc Pro		672

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gtg Val	gac Asp	att Ile	gtt Val	gtt Val 245	agc Ser	gaa Glu	gac Asp	ttg Leu	aat Asn 250	gga Gly	acg Thr	gtg Val	aag Lys	ttt Phe 255	tca Ser	768
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ctg Leu	gag Glu	aag Lys 275	tgg Trp	ctg Leu	caa Gln	ctg Leu	atg Met 280	ctg Leu	atg Met	tgg Trp	cac His	ccc Pro 285	cga Arg	cag Gln	agg Arg	864
ggc Gly	acg Thr 290	gat Asp	ccc Pro	acg Thr	tat Tyr	ggg Gly 295	ccc Pro	aat Asn	ggc Gly	tgc Cys	ttc Phe 300	aag Lys	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	gat Asp	912
gac Asp 305	atc Ile	tta Leu	aac Asn	tta Leu	aag Lys 310	ctg Leu	gtt Val	cat His	atc Ile	ttg Leu 315	aac Asn	atg Met	gtc Val	acg Thr	ggc Gly 320	960
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Gln	Gly 450	Gln	Arg	Ala	Ala	Met 455	Met	Asn	Leu	Leu	Arg 460	Asn	Asn	Ser	Cys	
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gcc Ala	aag Lys	ttg Leu	gat Asp	ttc Phe 485	ttc Phe	aaa Lys	acc Thr	agc Ser	atc Ile 490	cag Gln	att Ile	gac Asp	ctg Leu	gag Glu 495	aag Lys	1488
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ccg Pro	gat Asp	agc Ser 675	atg Met	aat Asn	gcc Ala	tct Ser	cga Arg 680	ctt Leu	agc Ser	cag Gln	cct Pro	ggg Gly 685	cag Gln	ctg Leu	atg Met	2064

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Ile	Ala	115 Ser	Ala	Leu	Arg	Tyr	120 Leu	His	Glu	Asn		125 Ile	Ile	His	Arg		
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		195					200					Туг 205					
Gly	Thr 210	Leu	Ala	Phe	Glu	Cys 215	Ile	Thr	Gly	Phe	Arg 220	Pro	Phe	Leu	Pro		
Acn		Cln	Dro	3751	Cln	Trn	uie	Sor	Lvc	Val	Ara	Gln	Lare	Ser	Glu		

Asn Trp Gln Pro Val Gln Trp His Ser Lys Val Arg Gln Lys Ser Glu

Val Asp Ile Val Val Ser Glu Asp Leu Asn Gly Thr Val Lys Phe Ser

235

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Ser	Lys	Asp	Pro 980	Asn		Lys	Arg	Asp 985		Met	Val	Leu	Leu 990	Glu	Phe	
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Gly	acc Thr	ctg Leu 435	cag Gln	tac Tyr	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	cca Pro 440	gag Glu	cta Leu	ctg Leu	gag Glu	cag Gln 44 5	cag Gln	aag Lys	tac Tyr	2	1344
aca Thr	gtg Val 450	acc Thr	gtc Val	gac Asp	tac Tyr	tgg Trp 455	agc Ser	ttc Phe	ggc Gly	acc, Thr	ctg Leu 460	gcc Ala	ttt Phe	gag Glu	tgc Cys	-	1392
atc Ile 465	acg Thr	ggc Gly	ttc Phe	cgg Arg	ccc Pro 470	ttc Phe	ctc Leu	ccc Pro	aac Asn	tgg Trp 475	cag Gln	ccc Pro	gtg Val	cag Gln	tgg Trp 480		1440
cat His	tca Ser	aaa Lys	gtg Val	cgg Arg 485	cag Gln	aag Lys	agt Ser	gag Glu	gtg Val 490	gac Asp	att Ile	gtt Val	gtt Val	agc Ser 495	gaa Glu	:	1488
gac Asp	ttg Leu	aat Asn	gga Gly 500	acg Thr	gtg Val	aag Lys	ttt Phe	tca Ser 505	agc Ser	tct Ser	tta Leu	ccc Pro	tac Tyr 510	ccc Pro	aat Asn	:	1536
aat Asn	ctt Leu	aac Asn 515	agt Ser	gtc Val	ctg Leu	gct Ala	gag Glu 520	cga Arg	ctg Leu	gag Glu	a'ag Lys	tgg Trp 525	ctg Leu	caa Gln	ctg Leu		1584
atg Met	ctg Leu 530	atg Met	tgg Trp	cac His	ccc Pro	cga Arg 535	cag Gln	agg Arg	ggc Gly	acg Thr	gat Asp 540	ccc Pro	acg Thr	tat Tyr	Gly		1632
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aca Thr	gag Glu	gat Asp	gag Glu 580	Ser	ctg Leu	cag Gln	agc Ser	ttg Leu 585	aag Lys	gcc Ala	aga Arg	atc Ile	caa Gln 590	cag Gln	gac Asp		1776
acg Thr	ggc Gly	atc Ile 595	Pro	gag Glu	gag Glu	gac Asp	cag Gln 600	gag Glu	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	cag Gln	gaa Glu 605	gcg Ala	ggc Gly	ctg Leu		1824
gcg Ala	ttg Leu 610	Ile	ccc Pro	gat Asp	aag Lys	cct Pro 615	Ala	act Thr	cag Gln	tgt Cys	att Ile 620	Ser	gac Asp	ggc Gly	aag Lys		1872
tta Leu 625	Asn	gag Glu	ggc	cac His	aca Thr 630	Leu	gac Asp	atg Met	gat Asp	ctt Leu 635	Val	ttt Phe	ctc Leu	ttt Phe	gac Asp 640		1920

aac Asn	agt Ser	aaa Lys	atc Ile	acc Thr 645	tat Tyr	gag Glu	act Thr	cag Gln	atc Ile 650	tcc Ser	cca Pro	cgg Arg	ccc Pro	caa Gln 655	cct Pro	1	968
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ttc Phe	cag Gln	ctg Leu 675	agg Arg	aag Lys	gtg Val	tgg Trp	ggc Gly 680	cag Gln	gtc Val	tgg Trp	cac His	agc Ser 685	atc Ile	cag Gln	acc Thr	2	064
ctg Leu	aag Lys 690	gaa Glu	gat Asp	tgc Cys	aac Asn	cgg Arg 695	ctg Leu	cag Gln	cag Gln	gga Gly	cag Gln 700	cga Arg	gcc Ala	gcc Ala	atg Met	2	112
atg Met 705	aat Asn	ctc Leu	ctc Leu	cga Arg	aac Asn 710	aac Asn	agc Ser	tgc Cys	ctc Leu	tcc Ser 715	aaa Lys	atg Met	aag Lys	aat Asn	tcc Ser 720	2	160
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G]A aaa	atc Ile	aca Thr 755	tca Ser	gat Asp	aaa Lys	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 760	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	tgg Trp	agg Arg	gaa Glu 765	atg Met	gag Glu	cag Gln	2	304
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agc Ser	ttc Phe 850	gag Glu	aag Lys	aaa Lys	gtg Val	cga Arg 855	gtg Val	atc Ile	tat Tyr	acg Thr	cag Gln 860	Leu	agt Ser	aaa Lys	act Thr	2	2592
	Val										Pro			gaa Glu		2	2640

gtg Val	gtg Val	agc Ser	tta Leu	atg Met 885	aat Asn	gag Glu	gat Asp	gag Glu	aag Lys 890	act Thr	gtt Val	gtc Val	cgg Arg	ctg Leu 895	cag Gln	2	688
gag Glu	aag Lys	cgg Arg	cag Gln 900	aag Lys	gag Glu	ctc Leu	tgg Trp	aat Asn 905	ctc Leu	ctg Leu	aag Lys	att Ile	gct Ala 910	tgt Cys	agc Ser	2	736
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gca Ala	cat His	aac Asn	ctc Leu	tgc Cys 965	acc Thr	ctg Leu	cta Leu	gaa Glu	aat Asn 970	gcc Ala	ata Ile	cag Gln	gac Asp	act Thr 975	gtg Val	2	2928
agg Arg	gaa Glu	caa Gln	gac Asp 980	Gln	agt Ser	ttc Phe	acg Thr	gcc Ala 985	cta Leu	gac Asp	tgg Trp	agc Ser	tgg Trp 990	tta Leu	cag Gln	2	2976
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Gly	Ile	Lys	Val	Asn 165		Lys	Ile	Arg	His 170	Asn	Ile	Glu	Asp	Gly 175	Ser
			180					185					Gly 190		
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			340				•	345					Gly 350		
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385					390					395	-		Glu		400
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			580					585					Gln 590		
		595	, i				600	l				605			
Ala	610		Pro	Asp	Lys	Pro 615		Thr	Gln	Cys	11e 620	ser	Asp	GIY	гÀг

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Phe Gln Leu Arg Lys Val Trp Gly Gln Val Trp His Ser Ile Gln Thr
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Leu Lys Glu Asp Cys Asn Arg Leu Gln Gln Gly Gln Arg Ala Ala Met
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Met Asn Leu Leu Arg Asn Asn Ser Cys Leu Ser Lys Met Lys Asn Ser
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Met Ala Ser Met Ser Gln Gln Leu Lys Ala Lys Leu Asp Phe Phe Lys
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Thr Ser Ile Gln Ile Asp Leu Glu Lys Tyr Ser Glu Gln Thr Glu Phe
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Gly Ile Thr Ser Asp Lys Leu Leu Leu Ala Trp Arg Glu Met Glu Gln
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Ala Val Glu Leu Cys Gly Arg Glu Asn Glu Val Lys Leu Leu Val Glu
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Arg Met Met Ala Leu Gln Thr Asp Ile Val Asp Leu Gln Arg Ser Pro
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Glu Gly Asp Ser Gln Glu Met Val Arg Leu Leu Leu Gln Ala Ile Gln
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Ser Phe Glu Lys Lys Val Arg Val Ile Tyr Thr Gln Leu Ser Lys Thr
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Val Val Cys Lys Gln Lys Ala Leu Glu Leu Leu Pro Lys Val Glu Glu
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Asn Ser Leu Pro Glu Pro Ala Lys Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Val Ala Glu
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gtc Val	gag Glu	ctg Leu	gac Asp 20	ggc Gly	gac Asp	gta Val	aac Asn	ggc Gly 25	cac His	aag Lys	ttc Phe	agc Ser	gtg Val 30	tcc Ser	ggc Gly	96
gag Glu	ggc Gly	gag Glu 35	ggc Gly	gat Asp	gcc Ala	acc Thr	tac Tyr 40	ggc Gly	aag Lys	ctg Leu	acc Thr	ctg Leu 45	aag Lys	ttc Phe	atc Ile	144
tgc Cys	acc Thr 50	acc Thr	ggc Gly	aag Lys	ctg Leu	ccc Pro 55	gtg Val	ccc Pro	tgg Trp	ccc Pro	acc Thr 60	ctc Leu	gtg Val	acc Thr	acc Thr	192
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ccc Pro	gtg Val	ctg Leu 195	Leu	ccc Pro	gac Asp	aac Asn	cac His 200	Tyr	ctg Leu	agc Ser	acc Thr	cag Gln 205	tcc Ser	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	624
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agt Ser	ttc Phe 530	acg Thr	gcc Ala	cta Leu	gac Asp	tgg Trp 535	agc Ser	tgg Trp	tta Leu	cag Gln	acg Thr 540	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gag Glu	1632
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1			Asp	5					10					15		
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				85					90					95	Glu	
			100					105					110		Gly	
		115					120	}				125			Tyr	
	130					135					140					
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			180)				185					190)	Gly	
Pro	Val	Leu 195	Leu	Pro	Asp	Asn	His 200		Lev	ı Ser	Thr	Glr 205	Ser	Ala	l Leu	
Ser	Lys 210	Asp	Pro	Asr	a Glu	Lys 215	Arg		His	s Met	Val 220	Leu	ı Lei	ı Glı	ı Phe	
Va]	Thr	Ala	a Ala	Gly	/ Ile	Thr		ı Gly	Met	235	Glu		туі	Lys	Ser 240	

Gly	Leu	Arg	Ser	Arg 245	Ala	Gln	Ala	Ser	Thr 250	Met	Met	Asn	Leu	Leu 255	Arg
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			500					505					510		Суѕ
		515					520				Arg	525			
Ser	Phe 530		Ala	Leu	Asp	Trp 535	Ser	Trp	Leu	Gln	Thr 540	Glu	Glu	Glu	Glu
His 545	Ser	Суѕ	Leu	Glu	Gln 550	Ala	Ser								